



Life Howling

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LIFE HOWLING

BOOK 01

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Life Howling

(라이프 하울링)

by

Sung Sang-Young

(고렘)

Synopsis

At 02:00 am every day mysteriously he finds himself forced to be in a RPG World.

Fighting, Gaining skills and making friends is part of the fun.

That's not all, he can use all of that in real life.

But don't forget the situations where he has to put his life on line to survive the situation.

Could he survive to the end?

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Chapter 1: First Experience (1)

Experience is a valuable asset. It's something that no one else can take away and serves as a foundation for making right decisions.

-a wise man does not know.

Everyone regrets. Even though living without any regrets is considered living life to the fullest, people still make mistakes.

There are no specific reasons. As we live on, watching time pass by, we begin to see the errors we've made in the past. In the face of commonly known fact, that everyone regrets, I, too, have made mistakes I wish I had not.

Why wouldn't I.

I'm also just a human who's prone to trouble.

So, right now, I'm terribly concerned.

How could I have ended up in this situation?

"could this....be a dream?"

Yeah...I definitely remember going to bed late last night after playing the game. Before that, just like any other day, I cooked up some ramen to devour it all.

Isn't that right? my beloved memory.

Last thing I recall is going to bed at 2 am after letting my food digest a bit. Yeah, that's it, but where the hell is this place?

I was standing in a total-white space.

The ground was completely white, and so was the ceiling. Even the walls were the same. All of it. It's hard to believe I was laying down in a place like that not too long ago.

I am not sure if there was light coming off the walls, but it was a strange space that was neither too dark nor too bright.

Don't tell me I was kidnapped by some aliens for their experiment?

Squeeze.

I pinched my cheeks only to find a sharp pain flooding in before I removed my hand.

“god damn that hurt....”

So, this isn't a dream? Did I really get kidnapped by the aliens? Is that what's going on? I frantically looked around.

Is it about 20 meters to the ceiling... no? Is it higher? I can't tell how high it is. To find out, I slowly started moving my steps towards the wall.

Tap. Tap. Tap.

Was that enough? I realized something then.

"I don't think I'm getting any closer...." What's going on? No... was I really kidnapped? But I was sleeping so well before I ended up here? how is all this happening?

I came to a brief stop only to collect my breath by using techniques I learned through 'martial arts.' And, within the Chinese martial arts, 'breathing' techniques were held with a high regard, as it was believed to control one's body.

Of course, I couldn't learn enough to control my body because my father's business went under and we had to move to a small apartment when I was only 8 years old, which forced me to stop learning martial arts all together.

But some of what I learned did help in situations like this.

It calmed my nerves to prevent any anxiety attacks and helped me gain focus.

Slap.

I tapped my two cheeks lightly. Then, I closed my eyes and reopened them to check the surroundings.

Okay, where the hell am I?

“Is anybody thereeeeeeee!”

I screamed at the top of my lungs hoping for someone to hear. But, just like that, my voice faded into the empty space.

“Judging from how my voice is not echoing... I guess it’s not a closed space as I thought it was.”

This could only mean two things... either the wall is made up of a material that absorbs sound waves, or this place is unimaginably enormous.

I needed to recollect myself.

This really was an abnormal situation. I could not see this place as something that was not out of the ordinary.

If that’s the case...

I needed to change my approach of things.

I'll find out where I am sooner or later. What matters is why I am stuck in a place like this.

Now, there was a useless question floating around in my head on who brought me here and for what reason?

If they're doing an experiment on how long it'll take me to die of starvation, I'm fucked for..

But that thought didn't last long. Front wall, ceiling, right wall, and left wall.

Suddenly, text appeared between the white walls. And, instead of getting surprised, there was no other thought that came to mind but annoyance.

“sigh....”

Now we're talking. I don't know who it is, but this just proves I'm not here to be observed for starvation. Showing this text to me does enlighten my mood, but I couldn't help myself from getting dumbfounded over what I was seeing before me.

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

First ability : Lyfedearc Divine Law LV 1

Sub ability : Lyfedearc Divine Law LV 1 – Divine Flesh

Sub ability : Lyfedearc Divine Law LV 1 – Basic Wound Heal

Sub ability : Lyfedearc Divine Law LV 1 – Basic Blood Blessing

w, what's that? a game? is a game about to begin? The divine flesh? basic wound heal? basic blood blessing?

“w, wait. wait a minute. inhale. exhaleeee. inhale. exhaleeee.” I took control of my breathing to pull myself back together.

Focus, damn it! you're in danger! the moment, you lose focus is when you're going to die!

“Okay, now. It's alright. I'm back to my normal self.” is what I kept telling myself as I stared into the wall like a deer looking at oncoming headlights. what could that mean? huh? what is that?

what the hell is first ability...

thump.

“huh?”

thump. thump. thump. thump. thump.

“w, what's that.”

my heart began to race as if I had just ran 100 meters as fast as I could. That sudden moment of anxiety threw me off, but I was not in a position to do anything.

s, stop. at this rate, you're going to die of heart failure...

hwahhhhhk!

I felt something appear from my heart and spread throughout my entire body. I had no idea what it was, but it was hot and sharp. at the same time, something shot inside my head. it was 'truth.' something I had never known before.

My heart rate returned to normal and my nerves as well. But, I was still standing in that white space staring at a text that's in front of me. Nothing has changed.

But I felt as if I had understood what was happening to me.

“The power of....God?”

Just now.

Chapter 2: First Experience (2)

“The power of....God?”

Just now.

It feels as if a small path to my heart has opened, but I am not entirely positive if it's real or not. What I do know is that there is power flowing inside me through that path.

According to what 'knowledge' I have, this was the God's power that was flowing inside me through that path. I believe this is called the 'Divine Power.'

The sacred power of God. The Divine Power.

And with it, I will be able to make miracles using the Divine Power. Its name is the 'Divine Law.'

Currently, I am able to make 3 different types of miracles. No, to be precise, 2 miracles reside within my body and the other can be used upon will.

First, the Divine Flesh.

This is done by resonating the Divine Power into my body. But, this state is subconsciously maintained at all times. The Divine Power increases the effects healing fatigue and any external

wounds I might have.

Second, Basic Blood Blessing.

Knowledge of this, too, is already inside my head. Just like the Divine Flesh, this state is maintained at all times without having to worry about it.

Like a vampire, combining the blood of others with my own will act as my body absorbing its life energy to replenish what was lost.

Third, Basic Would Heal.

This...is a very common skill in any game. And, just like the name indicates, it heals wounds! It's a skill that's widely used by characters tied to clergy.

“ha. Hahaha...”

All I could do was laugh.

“I hope I'm not losing my mind...”

So, it wasn't aliens who kidnapped me? or, did the aliens do something to my brain? What could it be?

I raised my hand well-knowing that the Divine Law of Lyfedearc

borrow power from God. Aside from the 3 miracles, I know there is another that exists for me to use.

Hwaaaak.

A bright light shined from my hand. The Divine Power reacted to my will by flowing from my heart to the end of my arm emitting light. It was something that not a single person would go on without feeling happiness.

A holy light from the Power of God...that is not originally of this world.

This... is strange. I looked at my hand while thinking I was either going crazy or there's someone who is messing with constantly messing with me.

Beeeeep.

I looked up where the sound was coming from only to notice that the text had changed.

That's....

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

First ability : Lyfedearc Divine Law LV 1

First weapon : Flail

Eh? A mace? What's that?

While I was staring at the text, a blue light appeared before me.

“huh?”

Startled, I quickly shifted my position to a defense form. Soon, the light faded from my hand and something appeared in its place.

Is this...

“A flail?”

What appeared in front of me was a metal flail with roughly a 50cm handle which looked similar to a mace.

I know what this is. I've seen it a few times in other games. Isn't that what they call it overseas? A flail?

While they looked similar, the difference between a flail and a mace was definite. At the end of the handle was a chain attached with metal chunk connected to it.

But a mace does not have any metal chunks clinging to the chain at its end. There is only the chunk of metal at the end of the handle.

The flail that appeared in front of me had a 50 cm handle with 3, 50 cm chains linking hexagon shaped iron pieces which looked to be about 20 cm long. The iron pieces had 3 cm long spikes coming out of its six sides.

Getting attacked with this will definitely cause the bones to break and leave holes in the flesh.

“huah. Huah.”

I was back to controlling my breathing. For a brief moment, I closed my eyes and opened them again while trying to calm myself before picking up the flail.

It...weight about 5kg. It was heavy and bulky. I could swing this around to use it as a weapon, but it was just too heavy for me.

“I hope they’re not....expecting me to fight with this....”

Is the chill I felt run down my spine. I could feel the cold sweat soaking up my clothes and dampening my hair, meanwhile making me nauseous.

Damn it! this is such a bullshit...

Beeeeep.

That sound again!

Paaaht!

The text began to change again.

First test

Combat – Giant Canine

“what...”

With the flail in hand, I squinted at the text trying to focus what it said.

The first test? Combat? Small canine?

That’s what I was thinking.

Paahht!

The blue light from before appeared again. but this time, it appeared 30 meters directly in front of me.

And when the light diminished, a Doberman was standing in its place.

“Fuck, are you serious? Man....”

Are they seriously trying to make me fight a damn Doberman!

“kung! Kung kung! Grrrrrrr!”

The Doberman began to lower its body while barking at me ferociously. Damn it! Do they not know that normal humans can't outrun a Doberman?!

A normal human being would lose their life fighting bare hands against a trained Doberman. This is not simply because Dobermans were known for their fighting abilities, but the difference in our instincts.

Shaking.

Without realizing, I was staring at the Doberman while dripping cold sweat all over and shaking in my shoes.

The anxiety over this animal was causing me to tense up, in which made me grip my weapon tighter.

“hoo. Hah. Hoo. Hah.”

Calm down. Don't get riled up. If they want you to fight, then might as well do it! Don't waste your time standing around looking like a fool!

“Kung! Kung!”

The Doberman is running towards me. Distance between us is about 30 meters, but it won't take long before he reaches me.

“heup!”

I stopped breathing, and lifted my flail in his direction.

“puuk!”

Paahht!

Chapter 3: First Experience (3)

come on....hit!

puuhhhk!

Flail's 2 of the 3 iron pieces smashed into the Doberman's backside. Bam! I welcomed the noise it made from making impact.

Direct hit!

Haha! Stupid dog messing with a human....

“kuwang!”

“uwahhhk!”

His back legs were broken and it looked as if his pelvis was fractured, but he still came to bite my arm with what little strength he had left.

I felt his fangs pierce through my skin and pinning my arm between his jaws while immense pain was running through my body.

“krrrrrrr!”

After he bit down, he refused to let go. My head was filling up with anger and agony.

Yeah, it hurts! It hurts, you stupid dog! Damn it!

That's when I picked up the flail again. But, this time I raised it high to smash it down on his back.

Puhhk!

Crack.

I heard his spinal cord crack from the blow, and with it, he let my arm go from his mouth. As I get my arm back, I took few steps back with blood dripping down my arm and sweat down my face.

The Doberman growled with anger in his eyes.

“huk. Huk. I, I need to treat this wound.” With the hand I used to grab on to the flail, I placed it over the wound with the broken flesh as it was bleeding.

“B, basic would heal.”

Pahhhht. A light appeared, engulfing the wound. Almost immediately, I could feel the pain reducing as the bleeding slowly stopped. What I felt to be an excruciating pain just a moment ago was minimized to just a minor cut.

“Basic would heal.”

Paahht.

After casting heal a few times, the wound on my arm had completely disappeared and the pain totally gone as if it wasn't even there in the first place.

Ha. Hahaha.

“with this, I should be able to make bank when I get out...” It could even be possible for me to start a cult. No, not a cult, but an order.

I may not know what kind of god this Lyfedearc is, but a god is a god. Then, does that make a pope or some sort? Man, I don't know what's going on anymore.

Beeeeep.

Another sound went off with a new text in front of me.

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

Ability : Lyfedearc Divine Law LV 1

Weapon : Flail

Status : first test passed

Reward : 10P

So, that was the test they were talking about?

“a reward, huh....this feels like a game....”

Maybe it's a game created by the aliens like that virtual reality stuff. And, if it wasn't created by them, it has to have been made by a God. But who knows. I can only think that this game is nothing but strange.

“Just what is the purpose of this game? Huh? just what are they trying to accomplishhhhhh!”

I felt anger, fear, and anxiety flooding in all at once. And out of those emotions came a scream I did not expect.

“huk. Huk.”

Even with a loud scream like that the wall did not budge. I knew I couldn't do anything.

Compensation Search.

Limited to 1 hour.

“com....pensation search? Search? What the hell was the 10P from earlier, then?

I thought to myself in frustration, but the search and 10P from before had to be linked with one another.

I don't know what's exactly going on, but.... I am sure of one thing.

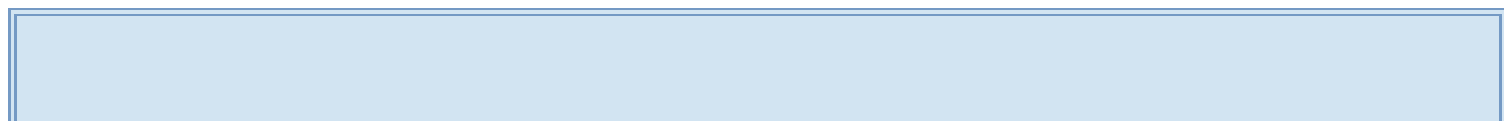
I cannot be careless with this. There's a strong possibility that this isn't the end....and that 1 hour limit is annoying. The only thing I can do on the compensation search is looking up... Lyfedearc.

It shouldn't be too hard to look up other things. Okay... let's see.

“Excalibur.”

The Divine Blade, Excalibur. The blade used by the legendary King Arthur. It is also said that this blade is known as the ‘Blade of Promised Victories.’

I don't know where this place is, but I wanted to check to see if any mythical items would show when called. Then, the text changed. Again.



Compensation Search

Excalibur

[Excalibur]

Class : Legendary Low

The blade of the Britain Isle's King Arthur. Although it's infused with powerful magic, the blade can only be used when it's near its sheathe. According to Wales' legend, this blade is able to shatter any swords that it clashes against and once took down an entire knight order with one swing.

Ability : Void Defense

Ability : Colossal

Ability : Demolition

Required Point : 10,000,000P

“1 million points!”

No, it's not the point amount that surprised me. I was more surprised at the fact that something like this even exists.

“To think there'd be a mythical weapon like this...oh man...then what am I supposed to with only 10P...wait hold on.” I thought to myself.

“Items I can purchase with 10P.” will this work?

Srrrrrrrrrk. Came an extremely long list of items I could purchase.

Compensation Search

1L water bottle – 1P

MRE – 1P

White panties for women – 1P

100 classic PC games – 1P

Most of it was bunch of useless junk. Why the hell are condoms on here? But, what I picked up from this is that....is it possible to obtain everything....

“Okay, let’s sort things out. First, I kidnapped and got put in this strange place. Second, I was given weird abilities. Third, they made me fight. Fourth, I can obtain things using these points. Anything. Now, I’m going to have to fight continuously. Why? Because....they reward me.”

I thought to myself for a brief moment on what I needed buy with those points. If I was to keep on fighting like this... I’ll need weapons. Yeah, weapons.

Clank

The flail that was in my hand couldn’t really be called a good weapon of choice. Then, how about a gun?

“K2 rifle.”

The list disappeared and a single K2 rifle was left behind.

Compensation search

K2 Rifle – 5P

[K2 rifle]

South Korea’s main rifle developed by National Defense and Science Institute. Production began in 1982, but it wasn’t until 1984 when the rifles were distributed starting with the spec ops team in the front lines. The K2 rifle uses 5.56 x 45mm NATO rounds with impeccable functions and easy aiming.

5P!

It’s so cheap....why is it.... no, wait. wait. hold on a minute. I said wait!

“hah. Hoo. Hah. Hoo.”

I started inhaling and exhaling again to gain focus.

Chapter 4: Daily Life (1)

5P!

It's so cheap....why is it.... no, wait. wait. hold on a minute. I said wait!

“hah. Hoo. Hah. Hoo.”

I started inhaling and exhaling again to gain focus.

“Alright”

This was a good weapon. I stared at it for quite a bit, but I had one problem....it was a standard gun. First, a dog appeared, but there's no guarantee that another dog will show up again.

Then, what else would I need? I thought real long and hard....before something came to mind.

The Divine Law, which is a skill I've acquired from Lyfedearc, I suddenly 'understood' everything there is to know about this technique and how to 'use' it properly.

Let's just say...that I know exactly how to use any skill that I acquire. If that really is the case, wouldn't it be just better to just acquire a skill that I can do whatever with?

It'll be better have a skill like that instead of a rifle, wouldn't it?

“Psychokinesis.”

Supernatural abilities?

Compensation search

Psychokinesis – 10P

[Psychokinesis]

The purported ability to move object through mental processes.

One of many supernatural powers that can only be used by those whose brains are well-developed. And, because it consumes a lot of energy from overusing the brain from its natural capacity, the user would need a lot of sugar to keep going. The brain can sustain heavy strain if the body doesn't gain must rest.

Here it is! I had to spend 10P for the skill... which was fairly cheap. Is it because it's a low-level skill?

Right now, having the Divine Law is the problem for me. What... would go with it?

The Divine Law boosts recovery. Although it's not much, I could rely on 'Divine Flesh' on top of 'Basic Wound Heal' to pick up the slack.

With this, I'd be able to stay alive just by using heal to close up my wounds because I can recover immediately right after each blow from the enemy. Now, how good can this get?

I wouldn't have trouble staying alive as long as I have good equipment and don't tire out during battle. Even reinforced plastic will help me defend against enemy blows. As long as I don't tire out...

Wait. what?

What does it mean to tire out? Doesn't it mean to lose energy?

If that's the case....how about this?

“Absorb.”

Compensation search

Absorb – 10P

[Absorb]

Forcefully absorbs energy from other lifeforms.

One of many supernatural powers that can only be used by those whose brains are well-developed. And, because it consumes a lot of energy from overusing the brain from its natural capacity, the user would need a lot of sugar to keep going. The brain can sustain heavy strain if the body doesn't gain must rest.

There it is!

Absorb.

Did they say something about absorbing life energy from others? It sort of sounds like the Blood Blessing skill I have since that, too, absorbs life right out of my enemies.

“Ah...”

I realized I could use this skill right now, especially, when I was feeling dull and weak from fighting. Absorb. The skill drains life of whatever's in my hand to my body.

This....is very useful. It's great.

Test complete

Player Yoon-Hwan Jung

Return

Text appeared on the wall, and I lost consciousness in the light.

& Daily life

Realize the importance of your everyday life. The boring life you live could be a light of happiness others.

-Morpheus, the King of Dreams.

Rrriinnnng!

Shut up....

My hand was already on top of the loud smart phone trying to shut it off before it made me want to throw it. After my phone was shut off, a quiet and empty sound surrounded me.

Suddenly, I felt something strange. It made me jump from my seat.

What time is it?

I brought my phone closer to me to see the digitized clock. It was already 11 in the morning with bright lights piercing through the air.

Ah, that's right, I fell asleep at 2 am. And... it seems like I had a

“meaningless dream.”

With a smirk on my face, I slowly stood up from my seat. I stretched out my hands trying to get a feel from what I went through in my dreams.

Divine Power.

Does it really exist?

Riiinnng!

The morning alarm went off again. Now, it was notifying me that I need to get myself ready for work. I was cutting it close.

I changed my clothes and ran out of my small studio apartment as soon as possible.

As usual, this place is crawling with people. I got this job after taking time off from school because it was known to have a good pay.

Royal.

A part-time job as a server in one of the country's most popular family restaurants. It requires a lot of energy, but the pay is rewarding.

Clink.

I arrived just before lunch time to see the restaurant's empty, open hall with a chic beauty standing by the counter with a frown on her face.

She's the head manager of this massive place. Her name is Arah Shin. And, even though she is a noona, I have never called her one. I think that's asking for death?

As soon as I walk in the restaurant, her frown disappears and she greets me with a light smile.

"Jung, you're here already? you're always early."

I, too, smiled, but I had my head down because I couldn't look directly into her eyes.

"Hello, head manager. Aren't we supposed to uphold our schedule?"

"Yeah, but."

I passed her as she was talking.

"I'm going to get changed."

“Alright, I’ll see you soon.”

As I was passing her, I could see her smile turn back into a frown as she stared down into the books, but I tried not to pay too much attention.

After changing into the uniform, I briefly washed my hands and came out to the main floor. There’s much to be done. People will soon come rushing in.

Customers with children, couples who make me cringe while they eat, and people who act like they’ve been starving for weeks. They’re all coming in.

Serving people like that sure drains me. The rush hour finally passed. I found my haven, as I lit up a cigarette to smoke. If it wasn’t for this, I wouldn’t make it.

Strangely, today....hasn’t been all that bad.

Chapter 5: Daily Life (2)

After changing into the uniform, I briefly washed my hands and came out to the main floor. There's much to be done. People will soon come rushing in.

Customers with children, couples who make me cringe while they eat, and people who act like they've been starving for weeks. They're all coming in.

Serving people like that sure drains me. The rush hour finally passed. I found my haven, as I lit up a cigarette to smoke. If it wasn't for this, I wouldn't make it.

Strangely, today....hasn't been all that bad.

that's how my day was spent. When evening hours came around, my shift was coming to an end.

“Good work today, everyone! I'll be going home now!”

I ran to catch the bus since they were still running for the night. After the long ride, I got off the bus near my home.

From here, it'll take about 10 minutes to my place. With a cigarette between my lips, I steadily kick rocks home.

Then it came to me. It all seemed like a dream....

“It sort of feels real but...”

Staring down at my palms, I thought to myself how strange it has been, but then again, I did over work myself today.

Was it Divine Flesh? I think that’s what I remember from my dreams. If that was real, it could be the reason why I’m not as tired as I should be.

vroom.

“who the hell is driving like that... at this hour?”

When my body turned towards the sound without hesitation, I found myself facing a car that was speeding towards me.

God damn it!

Boom!

My senses were going out of whack as my body was tossed around like a rag doll. I was feeling pain all over.

Thud.

“kuk....”

I felt my body slowly numb itself out while vision was being impaired. Or, at least, it felt like it. And, in the corner of my eye, where I could barely see now, the car was speeding off again into the darkness.

That bastard. A hit and run... man, this sucks. I don't want to....die... I slowly raised my hand with what strength I had left in me.

I don't...want to... die...so... even... if it was a dream... it's fine. So...

“Divine...heal.”

A light shined, and I lost consciousness.

I awoke in a dark room.

Where am I? is what crossed my mind before I realized my surroundings. A small, but comfortable bed and an emergency light.

It was a hospital room. I was laying down on a hospital bed with an IV stuck to my vein and soreness that shot all over the body.

Laying still, I unwillingly thought about what had happened last night.

Yeah, that hit and run bastard...

I guess, I almost died...

I raised my hand from the sharp pain passing through my body after a deep exhale. My hand. I was just staring at it like I've never seen it before.

Divine power.

I remember using it right after....the accident. I tried to focus on my hand again. Something was tickling from my heart to all the way to my hand.

Then, a light was shining from it.

It was all real.

The dream, what happened yesterday, it was all real.

Before long, I cut off the light and placed it on my chest.

Divine heal.

Without saying it, I ran the words through my mind. Then, the warm light which had shined on my hand was now moving into

my body.

The sharp pain slowly dissipated. With it, I was able to relax more comfortably. So, I gave it a few more tries.

Pahht. Pahht. Pahht.

The light repeatedly shined and disappeared. My pain was now almost gone... or, at least it felt like it. I don't think I was completely healed, but I figured this was enough to get the ball rolling.

I mean, how would I even begin to explain this healing method to the doctor?

With that thought, I was looking over my bed, beyond the curtains to scope out my surroundings. On the patient locker, next to my bed, was my smartphone. Thank god it wasn't broken...

I reached my hand out to grab my phone and held the power button.

Rinnng.

Thankfully, the power came on without a problem. When the smartphone's power fully came on, and its programs loaded, the current time was indicated at the top of the screen.

It was 1:58 AM.

It's already so late. Am I supposed to feel lucky about this...or is this just a misfortune.

Who knows? Receiving those powers in that strange place was never what I had originally wanted.

“hah...”

With an exhale, I turned off the screen. Soon after, I found myself laying on a completely different location.

“uh....”

I was not warned or ready for what had just happened. Just until a moment ago, I was lying down on a hospital bed....

This here is....

“A white room....”

I was back in the white room, on a hard surface floor. I got up.

“man....”

Half way through trying to get myself up, the sharp pain stopped

me moving any further. My body is not in the condition to be roughed around. But.... I had no other choice.

Being back here only meant one thing. I was going to have to fight again.

With that thought in mind, I placed my hands on my body and thought to myself again. Right after thinking that I wanted to heal, the light shined throughout my body.

Hwahhhhh.

After a few shines, I no longer felt any pain and I was able to get up without any issues.

As I stood on my feet again, I looked at the object that was placed beside me. It was the flail I used recently.

With a complicated look, I picked up the flail and faced the front. There was nothing written on the walls this time.

But a text would soon appear. Just like it did yesterday.

By the way....wasn't it 1:58 AM? Then, that must mean.... That I came here at 2 AM?

2 AM.

Is that when I get pulled into this place?

As of right now.... I don't know anything. but I had a feeling that this was not an easy thing to do.

Beeeeep!

A loud noise bursted through the air. I stared into the front awaiting for a text to appear.

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

Ability : Lyfedearc Divine Law LV 1. Absorb LV 1.

Weapon : Flail

Status : first test passed

Point : 0P

Two abilities. To be precise, the divine skills allow me to action three miracles... so, technically, I have four abilities.

Beeeeep!

Another sound bursted.

Chapter 6: Daily Life (3)

Two abilities. To be precise, the divine skills allow me to action three miracles... so, technically, I have four abilities.

Beeeeep!

Another sound bursted.

Second test

Continuous battle

Giant Canine.

2 Giant Canines.

3 Giant Canines.

“What? Continuous battle?”

What the hell is this? I’m expected to fight one, then another right afterwards? Is what I was thinking in stupidity just before another Doberman showed up from the light like before.

“Fuck.”

I tightened my grip as I cussed out loud.

“This is what I have to deal with at 2 in the morning... I’ll be sure to have some defense gear on next time...”

I knew I was going to get dragged in here again, but I had no idea I’d come back in a patient gown. No, this could be happening because I treated my dream like it wasn’t real.

“kung! Kung kung!”

The Doberman barked a few times, then came charging at me in full force.

Thump, thump.

I counted down as my heart was beating. Fuck, please don't mess up like last time. Getting bit again is not going to help anyone.

I began getting in stance to have the flail in the air to a position where I could easily, and successfully swing it down. And, just shortly after, the Doberman jumped in the air as it approached me.

Alright, this is it.

Heeyahh!

My good timing brought the flail smashing down onto that stupid dog's head. Perfect timing as the Doberman jumped only to have me smash the flail down on it.

Kwah jeekk!

The Doberman's skull broke. He couldn't whimper or bark, and just fell to the side becoming a carcass. He left behind a bleeding brain, shattered skull, and ripped flesh that was running blood all over the floor.

“whew....”

Doing this twice is slowly getting me used to it...

“Now, it’s time for two of them...”

Two Dobermans appeared with the light. I could feel sweat dropping down my cheek.

“I don’t think... I can dodge this one.”

God damn it. Damn it. Damn it Damn it.

What to do? What am I going to do?

“Kung! Kung!”

“Errrrrrr!”

I don’t much choice but to start swinging the flail, don’t I? Man, how did I get stuck with a pitiful weapon like this? I would’ve been happy with a simple spear or a short-short with a shield. Wouldn’t that have been much more effective?

Okay, for now I’ll need to kill one of them with the first attack, then the other.... I’ll finish him using Absorb.

Is how I planned out everything as I got myself into fight position. The two Dobermans ran towards me on both right and left side, as hard as they can. Fuck, are those two doing a combo attack?

“Kwang!”

I decided to swing my flail in full force towards the Doberman who was easier to hit. As the flail clanked, it made a direct hit to his head.

Pop!

Jeekk!

I felt the chill run down my spine as I heard his skull crack down the middle. As his friend was getting killed by me, the other Doberman threw himself towards my neck from the other side.

Don't think so!

Paahhk!

I took his bite into my arm instead.

“growllll!”

“keuh hukk!”

That hurts, damn it! fuck! that hurts a lot!

Clink!

I raised the flail as high as I could, and brought it down with a full force towards the Doberman's back.

Kwah jeekk!

His teeth had already done its damage to my flesh, but my attack made him release his bite. The pattern is same as yesterday.

“huk. Huk.”

Without consciously feeling pain, I stepped away from the Doberman laying on the floor growling.

Clink. Clink.

“Divine heal.”

After setting the flail down, I placed my hand on the wound. The light seeped into the bloody flesh, closing the wound and slowly eased my pain.

“Divine heal. Divine heal.”

The light shined a few times, and each time the wound got smaller and smaller. When the last light disappeared, my arm

looked just like it did before the fight.

Why am I doing this now? Because, I will be facing against three Dobermans soon. Once that one dies, the other three will appear right away. So, wouldn't it be better for me to heal myself while that one is still breathing its last air?

Sad thing is... I haven't had the chance to use Absorb. Since head-on attacks break bones and immobilize them, I guess I really don't have a need for it.

Whew, I'm sweating.

“hah....”

I wiped off the sweat and began walking towards the Doberman. As he was helplessly laying on the floor growling, I swung the flail at him without giving much thought.

Kwah jeekk!

Blood splattered everywhere. Now, there were total of three Doberman carcasses on the floor. And, as predicted, three Doberman appeared.

I know this is where things will get difficult.

I'll need to stay focused, because if I don't.... I could end up dying

here. This was a situation where I must use newly acquired skills to survive. Absorb.

But, unfortunately, there was no way of knowing how much power or how effective this skill was... And that wasn't helping me at all...

Regardless, I still had to give it a try, if I wanted to make it alive.

Strangely, as I was thinking and leaving myself open for attacks, the three Dobermans did not attempt to charge at me, but showed a different behavior than the others.

They were walking back and forth.

The three Dobermans were walking back and forth.

These dogs...

“mmmh...”

I keep sweating from all this tension. This is.. dangerous. My instincts are screaming with red alerts. Instead of attacking head on, they're eyeing their chance for the window of opportunity?

Damn. I won't be able to catch them if they hit me from the back! These Dobermans are different from the ones before.

They're not barking.

The others were too busy barking as soon as they appeared.

Gulp

The situation was so intense that I gulped unconsciously. They're....dangerous. Very dangerous. My body hairs were fully alert, sending a chill down my spine.

After what it seemed like a long standoff, they began their attack.

Tap tap tap tap.

There wasn't a growl in the air, only the fast running noise could be heard.

“Kuahhhp!”

When I turned around, one of the Doberman's face was right in front of mine. That forced me to bend my back in an angle that was not comfortable at all.

I swung my flail at the Doberman so fast, that it felt as if my muscles were tearing apart in the process.

Puuhhk!

But, it wasn't easy hitting them with one try. Although I missed his head, I was able to connect with his shoulder. And, with it, he was thrown off to the side from the momentum of the flail.

Alright! For a split second.

Kwahk! Kwahk!

“kuh ehuk!”

Suddenly, my back and my right leg was feeling immense pain. When I turned my head, each of the two Dobermans had bitten down part of my body.

And as soon as I turned to look, they released their bite and ran away.

“Those motherfuckers...”

After gaining some distance, they turned around to get a glance at me. I had lost my words. These damn dogs....are evil!

Chapter 7: Daily Life (4)

“Those motherfuckers...”

After gaining some distance, they turned around to get a glance at me. I had lost my words. These damn dogs....are evil!

They ran away because they knew I'd attack them while they were on me.

“heh....so, that's your plan, eh?”

But, you guys thought wrong.

“Divine heal.”

I took my hand to the wound, and made it light up again to reduce the pain shocking through the flesh. The Dobermans slowly approached again.

These bastards... they're aware that I'm healing myself? But, my two arms are still perfectly fine. Next time they come attacking, I'll finish them off....

Kwahk!

“kuwahk?”

I felt a sharp pain in my heel. I recklessly flailed my weapon around. and, when I came to a stop, I screamed. a Doberman with a broken shoulder had made its way to bite me on the foot. you... persistent...

tah daht!

suffering in the excruciating pain, I heard something running. no! the two other dogs....

“kuwahhk!”

when I turned my head around, both of my arms were already bit. kek! you damned dogs!

growl!

clink clan!

my flail was dropped to the ground from the pain. that's when those two dogs had my arms held down. you... you fucking dogs! do you think I'll get done in like this!

“absorb!”

as I chanted under pain, I felt something warm flow into my body from the tips of the Dobermans fangs. is this the life force?

“kieeeng!”

The dogs that didn't whimper even after getting hit by my flail were releasing their grip on me in pain.

no!

if I let them go here.... I could die! I'm going to...finish them right now!

kuwahhk!

With my jaws clenched down, I gripped their body as I kept absorbing their life force into mine. in an instant, the pain in my arms began to reduce steadily while healing it in the most unconventional way possible, unlike the divine heal.

this is... strong!

this skill...only downside is that it's melee, but who can argue with killing power like this?

“kuwahhhng!”

the heads of the Dobermans were glowing. Just like a mummy, the parts of their body where I held on to is drying out. and as so, they had released me.

With their bodies already partially mummified.... they had difficulties moving around. Yes, there's that old saying, that weak dogs tend to have a stronger bark.

I glanced over at the one that had bitten my foot. He's still there, leaving me holes to thank him for.

I slouched over enduring the pain as much as I could, so I could pick up the blood soaked flail on the ground. It was heavy, but still managed to pick it up. Then, I swung my weapon like a machine.

puuk!

just like that, the life of the dog that was biting down on me has ended.

I dragged my foot out of his face before glancing over to the side. Two Dobermans were shaking as they were trying to force themselves up.

“Divine heal.”

paat.

I took my time healing my wounds. and, kept on healing until I didn't feel any pain at all while my eyes were locked on the dogs.

“you guys-are just something else,” I said as I lifted up my flail.

“Time to die now.”

I swung the flail down killing the remaining two Dobermans.

“sigh...”

exhaustion filled my mind. I had survived somehow, but it was really dangerous. There was no guarantee that I could’ve won that battle if I was barehanded...

no. If I had given up in the midst of battle, I wouldn’t have won for sure.

I stared at my hands. as long as I can touch them... I can absorb their life force. If I didn’t have this... I would’ve been dead long ago.

This means that I made the right choice in selecting the reward. now...what should I pick for my next reward? all battles won’t be easily won like this...

beeeep.

another sound rang. When I looked up, a different set of text appeared.

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

Ability : Lyfedearc Divine Law LV 1. Absorb LV 1.

Weapon : Flail

Status : second test passed

Point : 30P

yeah... I think I know now. three dogs gave me a total of 30P?
does this mean I can learn absorb 3x over?

Doberman...

do I have to buy a gun? It should be easier to hunt Dobermans
with a weapon like that. No... guns run out of bullets.

reward search.

required time 1 hour.

the text changed while I was lost in thoughts. yeah, so I'm
running on limited amount of time again, huh? I understand. I
really do. what else can I do?

I'm the one in danger right now, aren't i? that's what it is. When
will all this finish? How did I end up here? what's the reason for
me being here?

damn it. I don't know what's going on you fucking bastards!

ha. hahaha. doesn't matter how much I yell in my head or through my mouth, it doesn't change anything.

I don't know who in the hell decided to make a fucked up situation like this. They probably don't even care about what I'm going through.

okay, now should I do?

they're only going to keep on coming. Aren't they? What are the skills I can use?

The Divine Law and Absorb. Both of these are not long-ranged. They're all melee.

"The problem started...with acquiring the Divine Law." That's what started it all of this nonsense. Because I have this...what other abilities could be tied to it?

Defensive items? or, weapons? flails are... rather a hassle to use.

"no, wait. wait a minute. I think something's coming to mind..."

flash.

a lightning flashed inside my head. I wonder... if they have it?

“flail arts.”

with my comment, the text changed.

reward search

chiu's ten thousand fragment flail – 1,000,000P

count valerian's flail knight style – 20P

flail arts 18 styles of countering – 10P

flail arts 24 styles of countering – 10P

infantry martial arts flail piece – 10P

flail score – 10P

England flail fighting style – 10P

Chapter 8: Daily Life (5)

chiu's ten thousand fragment flail – 1,000,000P

count valerian's flail knight style – 20P

flail arts 18 styles of countering – 10P

flail arts 24 styles of countering – 10P

infantry martial arts flail piece – 10P

flail score – 10P

England flail fighting style – 10P

the list went on, but most of it was 10P while the top had 1,000,000P.

just what is chiu's ten thousand fragment? is this supposed to be hella strong or something? was what I was thinking before I moved onto other skills. Regardless of what the skills actually were, it was nice having them. period. but will this... engrave information in my brain as soon as I acquire it like the divine law has?

It was a short thought. Before long, I was looking into each skill. chiu's ten thousand fragment flail was only possible in a dream. So, it was only logical that I looked at the “count valerian's flail knight style.”

reward search

count valerian's flail knight style.

[count valerian's flail knight style]

a flail knight style with a long history from the medieval ages in Europe. this style boasts a very systematic, yet practical method widely used by knights in battle.

the information doesn't tell me too much. then...

“infantry martial arts flail piece.”

reward search

infantry martial arts flail piece

[infantry martial arts flail piece]

a martial arts training guide from the choseon era.

a training guide written for the sole purpose of honing the skills of warriors. it lists actual combat arts within its pages.

I ignored the half-assed information again. but the difference between the two is that one is a noble style that's been passed down through the count valerian family, where as the infantry martial arts guide is just for commoners, is that it? which one should I study?

it doesn't matter how much thought I put into it... the answer is right there.

study the noble one.

and for... 20P, it's not like they're going to just toss me the book and leave me be to myself. why do I think this? because, for 20P, I could learn two skills.

I guess this could count as a gamble... it probably is a gamble...

“count valerian's flail knight style.... no, wait.” count valerian... was from the medieval ages in europe.

“medieval ages...” no, nope. “heavy-armory was the focus point back then... and to have a flail arts... no.. it just won’t do...”

which one should I learn? should I just... pick up nunchucks? is that it? like bruce lee, that’s it. or...

While I was contemplating on my decision, I had another idea that came to mind.

“flail arts that was sourced from both China and Korea.”

paat! the text changed.

reward search

chiu's ten thousand fragment flail – 1,000,000P

flail arts 18 styles of countering – 10P

flail arts 24 styles of countering – 10P

infantry martial arts volume flail – 10P

deva king volume – 500,000P

blood volume – 100P

gem volume – 100P

weird options keep coming up... then...

“let me arrange everything by their points.”

reward search

hwarang infantry martial arts volume – 20P

flail weapon arts volume – 20P

blood volume – 20P

gem volume – 20P

bukpaegon volume – 20P

Lyfedearc's new warrior flail mastery – 20P

“uh...”

Lyfedearc's new warrior flail mastery?

they should've let me know something like this existed earlier! wait. is it my fault that I didn't know? I should...look up everything that involves lyfedearc when I get the chance later.

But how is any of this sourced from both China and Korea? what? Is Lyfedearc supposed to be a God in Asia? or, what the hell...

My head was spinning from random thoughts for a brief moment, but I was able to recollect myself with a single decision. I needed to choose something that I absolutely required.

Without wasting another second, I was searching for more

information on “Lyfedearc’s new warrior flail mastery.”

Reward Search

Lyfedearc's new warrior flail mastery

[Lyfedearc's new warrior flail mastery]

Flail combat skills studied by those who follow in the teachings of Lyfedearc. Due to its key skill in grafting divine powers into the flail, it delivers a powerful blow to the undead.

oh, Lyfedearc, you are my savior. That is what I shouted out loud.

“Purchase Lyfedearc's new warrior flail mastery.” The text disappeared before my heart became hotter.

“kek!”

huwahhk! A light engulfed my entire body. My head felt like it was going to crack open as my eyes started to darken.

I learned it!

Lyfedearc's new warrior flail mastery. I can use it right now if I wanted to!

Just like how I mastered the Divine Law, Lyfedearc's new warrior flail mastery

was easily learned, allowing me to use it right away!

Does this... mean that a God really exists. If so, what does God want?

No, this isn't the time to be thinking about stuff like this. All I have left is 10P. I have to make it count.

“Enhance Defense.”

Reward Search

rigid body ability – 500P

skeletal enhancement – 5P

muscle enhancement – 5P

skin enhancement – 5P

physical enhancement – 10P

psychokinesis screen – 10P

physical resistance – 10P

Many skills were listed. It felt as if I was shown all the defense skills they had. There's even a psychokinesis screening. Is this something I need to learn? Before long, I was already looking into other skills.

[physical enhancement]

An ability that enhances the overall traits of one's physical attributes. The skin becomes thicker, muscle density rises, and strength of the bone increases. Although intelligence is slightly increased, the five senses such as: hearing, eye-sight, touch, smell, and taste are drastically enhanced.

Chapter 9: Survival Combat

[physical enhancement]

An ability that enhances the overall traits of one's physical attributes. The skin becomes thicker, muscle density rises, and strength of the bone increases. Although intelligence is slightly increased, the five senses such as: hearing, eye-sight, touch, smell, and taste are drastically enhanced.

This is something that raises everything...

[steel body]

Increases the density in one's body, while the skin becomes tough like a well-made leather armor. The body will be able to withstand more damages as the cells itself become tougher. As you level, you will notice the density increasing in the body, allowing for more steel-like body. Surprisingly, even after learning this skill, the skin will still be able to maintain its flexibility.

It is sort of similar to Physical Enhancement, yet different at the same time. The Physical Enhancement allows for all abilities in the body to be increased, whereas the Steel Body only raises the defense. If I only wanted to consider defense, Steel Body would be the most logical choice to make.

And... I think the best for me to do right now is to learn Steel

Body. Why? Because my combat style is melee, and I already have healing skills to get me by.

“Purchase Steel Body.”

paaht. Light engulfed me. Although there was no strong impact this time, I could feel the changes my body had gone through. I could feel... that my skin had already become tougher. I hope... I’m not becoming a monster or something. A random thought crossed my mind for a split second.

Test complete

Player Jung Yoon-Hwan

Return

& Survival Combat

Fight to survive!

Run as you fear for death!

You are the master of your life,

Do not submit to death!

-A cry from a speaker

The text on the wall had changed and another light engulfed me. Just as before. Am I going back to my reality? I thought to myself as I closed my eyes from the light.

And when I opened my eyes, I was laying in a hospital bed with my phone still in my hand. When I... checked for time, it was back to 2:00.

I was dragged into that place at 2. But... does this mean that time stops here when I'm there?

I got myself up to open the blinds in the hospital room. There was a peculiar looking clock on the wall there, and it was pointing at 2.

I think I know what the rules are. I'm forced to go there every day at 2. Once time there, time here stops completely, and I can

acquire superhuman abilities that people can only dream of having here.

God.

If God didn't exist... this wouldn't be possible. But... I don't know what's going on. Why me? just why me? What did I do? Did I do something special?

“sigh...”

I sighed without realizing, as I began thinking about what I'm going to do in this situation when I should be more focused on how all this happened in the first place.

All of my injured wounds have already been healed completely. I already know what the doctors are going to say.

“Is this a blessing in disguise...”

My mother is not there, nor is my father. It's rather simple. They both had passed away while I was young. I do have cousins, but I have never been in touch with them. As for my mother, she didn't have any cousins and my father had cut all ties with his.

That is why contacting them would be impossible. Should I be thankful that it's like this? That there's no one who'd worry about me being like this.

keh...

But, first, what I need to do is...

“Tell them I have no money, and leave as soon as possible...”

Feeling discouraged, I rang the bell to call in the nurses. It's commonly known that a patient can easily leave the hospital if they don't have any money to pay for the treatments.

Walking in the night, I stared into my unbroken phone. It was a long day... I had been placed in the hospital from an accident, fought with Dobermans, and receiving Divine powers. But, none of it felt real even if they were all engraved in my memories.

Isn't it normal for people to get traumatized in situations like this?

“sigh...”

another sigh came out before I could stop myself. Wait. Not sighing in situations like this isn't normal either, right?

I pulled out a cigarette from my inner pockets while walking through the cold air. The cigarette had already been crushed beyond the point where I could smoke it. Disappointed, I threw it on the ground.

I should at least be thankful that my cards are still intact. Just what am I doing... haha.

“what am I... going to do from now on...”

I may be an orphan, but I do know that to survive in Korea, I must at least hold a college degree. So... I studied my ass off to get into a college within Seoul.

My academic studies are currently on hold, as I had no other choice but to work part-time to gather money for tuition. For inheritance, all that was left to me was 120,000,000 won, which is comfortably sitting in my bank account. I could use this money to pay through my school, but I chose not to touch it, hence my reasons for working part-time.

As long as something drastic doesn't come up, I'll be okay.

If everything goes accordingly, I will be able to save up enough money for school, get my degree, and get on with my life. Then, I'd find a job to live out the rest of my days.

Start my career, find a girlfriend, and live just like everyone else.

All these thoughts dispersed into thin air just like the air I was breathing out into the cold night, as I had no idea of what my future has in-store for me. I mean, how could I hope to plan my future... when I'm already faced with an unrealistic situation? Even I will never know what's going to happen.

Fear sets in, and a feeling of mysteriousness. I just don't know what to do...

“somehow I did manage to survive through all that...”

When the Dobermans came at me, I did an amazing job handling that. If I had made a mistake...I probably would've ended up as their food. Have I always been a composed person like that? is what I hoped to think but... none of that matters now, because I'm alive. That's all that matters.

Upon walking through my small studio-apartment door, I took off my raggedy clothes and threw them on the floor before laying on my bed. My mind is flooding with random thoughts, keeping me from going to sleep. Why is this happening to me?

“sigh...”

I forced myself to close my eyes. And, before long, I had fallen asleep quicker than I realized.

Chapter 10: Survival Combat

My eyes cracked open when the morning light crept through the curtains. how... long did I sleep for? It was around 4 when I came home....

I reached for my phone to check the time. It was still 7 in the morning.

“Was I only asleep for 3 hours...this doesn’t feel right...”
Something is definitely off.

All of my wounds have been treated thanks to the Divine Heal, but that didn’t account for the severe tiresome I was feeling. In that white room, I gave my all to survive and even after, I wasn’t able to get a full rest in the hospital. And I could’ve sworn I passed out when I got home?

But somehow... my body feels completely fine when I awoke so early after barely sleeping?

“My body feels fully recharged. Actually, it feels as if I have more energy to spare. I wonder... if that’s it.”

Divine Flesh. That has to be it.

Wasn’t that the skill that consistently flowed Divine Energy into my body? That energy was supposed to relieve my body of all fatigue, increase my recovery, and raise my strength to a certain

extent.

Could this be the reason why I only slept for 3 hours? Did it reduce my 8 hour sleep pattern into just mere 3?

sigh...

Looks like I wouldn't have to worry about being tired any longer. Well, I should be thankful for that.

I turned to look at the calendar. Today was October 15th, my day off. Should I really be thankful for today.... or, not.

"There's too much going on at once... before, I was struggling to eat, and now there's that thing I have to worry about..."

Sighing unconsciously didn't help me at all, but there's nothing else that could be done.

With already twelve fights in, there is something I've learned. Knowing the number of items I can carry with me.

I'm sure... that everything I am wearing and my phone was transferred along with me. So... if what I'm thinking is correct, taking few more items shouldn't be a problem.

When I step into that place, I'm able to pick up a flail and use it to my content since I have acquired the flail mastery skill. But, I

should still consider taking a weapon or a tool with me, right?

What would I need? Something that... I'll need in that place.

“Since I can't put my finger on it... I might as well take everything I can.”

I got up from my seat to change my clothes before grabbing for my wallet. And, before I could walk out the door, my phone began to vibrate violently.

I stared into my phone only to see a name, Kim Su-Hyun, displayed on its screen. Kim Su-Hyun... a classmate from college. Someone who I sort of dated. I put the phone on silent and slid it into my pocket. I didn't have the time to be dating anyone right now.

A stuffed bag was right in front of me full of variety of things. First was water. There were two bottles of water, chocolate pies and bread biscuits, and nuts for my snack.

First Aid kit was also stuffed in the bag, but I had removed it as they were no longer needed with the skill I've acquired. Aside from that, I've purchased a walker with high platform and plates that are used by hockey players. Thanks to that, it took a chunk out of my balance – which made my account look very empty.

It scares me to even dream about going back to school.... No. I should buy what I need.

I've tried on the hockey plates. With these on, I shouldn't feel too much pain when I get bit by the Dobermans. After, I threw on the backpack on top of the plates.

My watch was already pointing 1:50. It was time for me to go. After I sighed a few times, the time had come.

hwahhk.

Everything in my sight had changed in an instant, and before I knew it, I was already in the white room from yesterday.

alright. It looks like I can bring everything I have on me. Should I go buy a gun somewhere to bring it here?

But I had no money.

Beeeeep.

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

Ability : Lyfedearc Divine Law LV 1. Absorb LV 1. Steel Body LV. 1. Lyfedearc's New Warrior Flail Mastery Lv 1.

Weapon : Flail

Status : Second Test Passed

Point : oP

A sound rang, and my information appeared. Do I already have 4 skills? When I looked down, a flail was already in one of my hands.

I lightly swung the flail around. Swinging it in figure 8's, trying to get the hang of it again for what's to come.

“It's crucial to get the flail's fundamentals down as soon as possible. Since the flail's tip is connected to the handle via chains, I can't be handling it like other weaponry.”

The written words of Lyfedearc's New Warrior Flail Mastery slithered out of my lips.

“Because it uses much centrifugal force to make attack, it leaves lots of open areas and requires great footwork to support the action.”

I spun the flail in the very spot I was standing on before jumping forward, and back.

It felt like a step-move in boxing. Once I completed checking myself, I moved on to the next phase.

schhhhhh.

There was light coming from all over my body. A Divine Power shifted from my body to my arm, then gathered in the weapon. With this, my flail was full of Divine energy. It increased its power by a fold instead of just hammering down the enemy.

This is the Lyfedearc’s New Warrior Flail Mastery.

It wasn’t just a martial art to handle flails, but also apply the Divine Power into weapons or the body.

I was really surprised after acquiring the skill. Who would’ve thought this would be possible.

I stopped swinging, and put my backpack down on the ground to look at what was in front of me. A sound went off.

beep!

Third Test

Survival Combat – The Forest of Death

1 point earned for every enemy killed

“What?”

While I was looking ahead with a dumbfounded look on my face, the world had changed before my eyes. The white room disappeared, and I was in a dark room.

“sigh...”

It was a dark room. A pitch black room, and I was standing in the middle of it. Before long, my hands were up trying to get a feel of what was around me.

hwaak.

The Divine Power's light shined. I now could see what was around me, and where I was standing.

It was a small stone chamber made with an unknown surface. The ceiling was arched and the rest was in a square shape. This was a survival combat, right? and, The Forest of Death.

“Damn it, how can they just put me in a place like this...” I told myself it was a good decision to bring everything in the backpack. I honestly didn't have any better reason to bring food, but it seems it worked out for the better.

I'm happy, but pissed off at the same time.

“Are they telling me to leave this place...”

They did say it was a survival combat. I gulped before heading forward. As I walked, I concentrated the light in my hand to my head, making it shine to what I was trying to see.

When I walked out of the room, I realized I was in a gloomy

forest. From the outside, the stone chamber just appears to be a small arched building, and the outside was just a regular forest. Thankfully, it wasn't a mountain, just a flat forest.

But how do they expect me to survive here? If I survive, I should get something in return but...

jik. jeek.

jik. jeek.

Is what I thought before I heard something nearby. Something was coming closer, dragging something on the ground. When I looked up, there was a shape moving in the dark.

gulp.

Chapter 11: Survival Combat

Is what I thought before I heard something nearby. Something was coming closer, dragging something on the ground. When I looked up, there was a shape moving in the dark.

gulp.

Fuck. What's coming my way? I doubt it's a dog... what is it...

“Heup!”

What came into the light made my heart drop. It was.... a corpse with one eye hanging out of its socket... The corpse was coming towards me with its arms wide open while limping as if one of its leg was broken. The clothes were something I could not recognize. It was... a zombie!

“Fuck. They just had to send a zombie...”

I clenched down on my jaw while I walked towards the zombie.

“guwahh!”

The zombie sped up its walk, and came towards me faster than before. But, it still wasn't all that quick. It was considerably slow compared to a normal human being running.

With my jaw tightened, I used my flail just like I was taught to by lifting it up before slamming it down. When it comes to using flails, it's all about the snap in the wrist. You simply cannot just smash down with the flail, but use the momentum with the snap from the wrist to increase the blow.

Pahhht.

The Divine Powered flail slammed down on the zombie. Puhk! with a loud smack, the zombie's head broke in two.

hwaark!

And something interesting happened. A blue spark had appeared on the head where the flail had struck. Though the spark did not get any bigger, it burned something as it fumed a black smoke.

The zombie dropped to the ground shaking.

“Could he be... weak against Divine Power?”

I stared at the zombie for the moment.

“yeah... they do call zombies, the undead... and it's widely known in legends and games that they are weak against holy power. sigh... What to do about this.”

Regardless of what I Thought, one thing was for certain. The

chances of my survival had definitely increased.

Yeah, that's all that matters, right? Fuck.

“guahhh.”

“guuuuu.”

Zombie voices started coming from all around. Instead of fear from the voices of the dead, I was more annoyed.

Alright, so you guys will give me a single point when I kill you? Good. It's just great. I will obliterate all of you and gather as many points as I can today.

“Fuck! you want me to survive? hah! I will you bastard! I will survive! I will definitely survive so I can get my hands on the fucker who put me here!” I shouted.

The sounds coming towards me had gotten louder. Even so, I stood there without a care in the world.

Different color zombies appeared from the woods. There had to be at least 20 of them.

“Jesus Christ, there's a lot of them. What am I going to do?” I said, as I raised my flail.

I focused all the Divine Power flowing in my body into my flail, causing it to shine with a bright light.

“Do you really think I’m the same weak guy from yesterday? And, what can these little bastards do besides biting and scratching me a little? Even people can’t bite or scratch through these hockey plates, you bastards!”

I ran towards them.

“Get exorcised!”

I ran into a group of zombies to swing my flail at a zombie that was right in front of me.

Puhk! His head crushed with the noise, and a blue spark appeared before killing him.

I pushed my left leg back, lowering my stance a bit to use it to a full swing. Before long, I swung the flail as hard as I could.

JJuhhk!

The second zombie’s head was crushed, and the spark was making its way into him.

Alright, you fucking bastards. Today is the day I’m going to make my stance!

“uwahh.”

Another zombie came to me with his arms wide open while I was taking care of the other two. When I blocked one of his arms, the zombie tried to bite and scratch through my hard-plastic shield.

hwahhk!

cheeeek!

I focused my Divine Power into that arm. When I did, I could see his skin burning from contact, but unfortunately, he did not back away from pain.

These damn zombies.... so, they get injured, but don't die off right away, huh?

hwing!

I swung my flail at the head of the zombie that was getting too close to me. Three of them had already been taken care of. I headed for the last one of the pack.

Just like his other friends, he sped up and came towards me. And, just like I did to his friends, I swung my flail at him.

Puhk!

I killed off four zombies in one-go.

My muscles were sore from the fight and I was sweating.

“sigh... I’m aching just from a fight with four zombies. I should’ve worked out... more when I had the chance.” is what I was mumbling to myself as other zombie packs slowly surrounded me. hah. but... I’m not going down that easily.

“Divine Heal.”

Paaht. A light engulfed my body. The aching muscle pain had disappeared. My body was still heavy, but didn’t have the pain to slow me down. The Divine Heal treats wounds, but it doesn’t take care of tiresome or fatigue. Oh well, it doesn’t matter.

I can still take care of them easily.

hweeek! puhhk! hweeek! puhhk!

More zombies came to surround me as I was cracking open the skulls of two zombies. Now’s the time!

“haap!

Puhhk!

I ran to the side, and hit one of the zombies with my shoulder. The zombie fell on the ground. I used to him like a step ladder to jump over the surrounding zombies. It was rather easy considering their speed couldn't match mine.

xung. xung. xung. xung.

I started spinning my flail. Its tip began connecting with their heads as they got closer.

puhhk!

I took a step back, and charged again. Attacked again.

Puhhk!

In an instant, two zombies collapsed on the ground. Their weakness lies in their head.

“Divine Heal.”

I used another set of Divine Heal to treat my muscle ache. Once finished, I saw more zombies approaching. It was time for me to take care of them as well.

21 corpses in total. At least that's appears to be the number of kills I had. But, I didn't favor the sight of crushed skulls lying on

the ground.

I don't think I'm a normal person. I mean, looking at all this doesn't bother me at all. I'm not scared.

“sigh.”

After the battle, I returned to the stone chamber and sat down with my back against the wall. Soon, I felt the tiresome slowly dissipate from me. This really... is surprising.

Who would've thought my body would recover this fast just from the Divine Power flowing through me. No... just having it heal my wounds in the first place is amazing itself.

A miracle.

A miracle that allows a mortal to borrow the power of God to heal himself.

It truly is... amazing.

“alright.” I stood up, and moved forward with the flail in hand. From there on, I followed the path on the ground past the zombie corpses laying in defeat.

It really was a survival combat.

Chapter 12: Survival Combat

“alright.”

I stood up, and moved forward with the flail in hand. From there on, I followed the path on the ground past the zombie corpses laying in defeat.

It really was a survival combat.

Just how many am I supposed to take care of... Regardless, I couldn't stand still in that very place. I was told I'd be given 1 point for each kill. That means, I have to kill as many as possible in order to gain points to purchase good weaponry, armory, and possibly, learn new skills.

I must fight. I must only keep moving forward.

When I start falling behind... I'll end up just like them.

“eugh... life sure has a funny way of going about things.”

That reminds me, I should be worried on how I'm going to support my life. Can I make some money with the points I earn? What can I do when I can't take any of this money to the real world.

let's search something. At this rate, I shouldn't have any

problems clearing the upcoming battles as well.

Thud. Thud.

With the light shining from the helmet through applying Divine Power to it, I kept on moving forward before I began hearing “kuahh” in the dark.

I’ve already gotten used to fighting them so hearing them didn’t bother me anymore. It was a good decision to learn Lyfedearc’s Mastery.

Feeling proud, I kept walking. The trees around me grew in a direction that didn’t sprout upwards, but in a shape that got in my way.

Shhhrak!

Puhk!

I smashed their heads in when they got close enough. This time the zombies were still twitching. Maybe it’s because I didn’t use Divine Power on the flail.

He’s not dead, is he?

Paaht.

The light in my helmet dimmed, as my flail began to shine. When I struck down on their head, a spark catches in the crack and takes them down.

A blue spark ignited before going out completely. Considering how this blue flame doesn't light the grass on fire, this thing isn't like anything else.

So, all I have to do is take them down like this? I walked as much as I could before I stopped in my tracks. A survival combat... I wonder if I'm supposed to take care of all the zombies in this forest? Or, Am I supposed to stay alive? Could there be a more... effective way to kill them?

I thought to myself for a brief moment. A more effect way to kill off the zombies...

It was when I was thinking to myself when I heard something.

“kyahhk!”

This...

is a “girl's scream?”

I turned my head towards the direction where the scream came from, and began moving with the flail in my hand.

Is there someone else who was dragged to this place?

“Yeah, if it’s only a zombie...”

I began running towards the scream.

My body was heavy with all the hockey gear, but it felt good. As I ran towards where the scream came from, I noticed a light shining.

Fire!

An orange-red fire was burning through a tree in the dark.

This could only mean that there was a monster who could use fires, or it was lit by someone who screamed earlier...

As I was thinking to check it out...“kuahhh.”

Five corpses appeared from the shadows, making their ways towards me.

“Zombies...”

Do they plan on keep coming at me until I’m dead? Their clothes looked raggedy. Not of something modern, and looked really cheap.

There was a zombie that was wearing an armor made of worn, broken-down leather, and a zombie wearing an iron helm.

Some zombies had knives or axes on their harness, but it looked like they weren't interested in using them. They only kept coming with their arms out to me.

Just where are these zombies coming from?

shhhhhhhhhh.

Pahhht.

I applied the Divine Power into the flail. I felt something flowing out of my body, but I kept walking forward so I could struck their heads as hard I could.

Swhhek!

Puhhk!

One zombie's head cracked open in an instant. That wasn't all. A blue spark was ignited in the cracked part of the head with a black smoke coming from it.

The smoke smelled of rotten flesh burning. It was a smoke that gave me a bad feeling.

I like the fact that their weakness is their head. They're slow and not-so strong. I even like the fact that they're weak against the Divine Power.

Puk! Puk! Puk! Puk!

I stood back as I struck down on their head with my flail. Before I knew it, five corpses laid at my feet.

They won't move again.

I moved my focus from the corpses, and began to move forward again. The light was coming in closer. About 6 trees were lit on fire. There was a strong heat coming from it.

On the round, near the fire, I spotted a tired, pale woman with her palms out. She was wearing a school uniform.

I approached the fire trying to get closer to the girl who was rather too pale, shocked, and surrounded by fire. Not too far off, I saw a zombie walking towards her.

"D, don't come any closer. pant. pant."

Is... that a student?

A cute-looking girl with a short haircut and sharp-looking eyes was standing there. She was cute enough to be taken as a celebrity

with her looks and appearance. She stood still with her palms exposed.

Hwahhhk! It was as if a flame thrower was right in front of me.

Tchhh.

The flames got on the zombies. I saw them shake to the fire, then falling on the ground.

That's amazing. What is that?

But I could see the weakness in the attack. Is it a skill that's used by consumes stamina?

“Pant. Pant.”

I could see the student sitting on the ground, breathing rather hard. It really must be...draining for her to use that attack.

Must be different from mine.

Chapter 13: Survival Combat

“Pant. Pant.”

I could see the student sitting on the ground, breathing rather hard. It really must be...draining for her to use that attack.

Must be different from mine.

I was blessed with the power of god. In a way it is mine to use freely, but at the same time I'm just borrowing the power that flows through me.

shhk

A zombie showed up as I was sorting my thoughts. It got behind her. I couldn't see her face as it was hidden behind the zombie's back. The zombie got closer to her. I could see that she was exhausted beyond belief to not even able to scream.

I'm not going to let her die like this!

paahk!

I ran towards the zombie and struck its skull. crack! With a loud noise, his skull split into two and bled grotesque, rotten blood.

It fell to the ground without much resistance after that.

I looked up to the girl. She, too, was looking right back at me, but in shock.

“Hey, are you alright?”

She nodded. She nodded with a blank look on her face.

It means she's alright, isn't it?

I reached out my hand to the girl who was on the point of collapsing.

“Let’s get out of here before more of them find us.”

Shaking, she reaches for my hand. She’s totally exhausted. I wonder if I can heal her.

“Low-level injury heal.”

Pahht

A light shined, closing all the small wounds on her body. But, it wasn't enough to restore her lost energy.

So, this is only good for healing wounds. I guess it's not meant to use for recovering lost strength...

“Try to get up.”

Grab.

I grabbed her hand and tried to help her get up, but it appeared like her legs were too weak to stand on. Seeing her like that, I threw her arm over my shoulder and walked her.

Step by step, we walked forward with her arm on my shoulder. And, with each step, I continuously used Divine Power to flow through her body.

I had hopes that it would help her somehow, and if it didn't... well.. at least I tried.

After walking for a bit, I stopped in order to remove my hockey gear. The bulky gear did get in the way of fighting with the zombies, but that wasn't the real reason why I took it off. It was to make it easier for me to walk with her.

Steel body should keep me relatively safe even without this bulky gear.

I kept on walking, feeding Divine Power into her.

Kuahh!

“They’re behind us.”

As soon as a zombie appeared, I stepped forward and went at the zombie as if I was blinded by rage.

Puhk!

Like a watermelon getting cracked open, the zombie’s head was split in two. His head sparked with blue flame and emitted a black smoke.

I can hear my points getting collected. I mean, this is what I’m supposed to do, aren’t I?

“Okay, let’s go.”

She nodded.

The student followed me without saying a single word. After walking a bit further, we arrived at my starting point. The stone

chamber.

“It’s safe in there, so go on in.”

While she went inside without hesitation, I looked around for any possible dangers before following her in.

Inside the chamber was dim, but it wasn’t too dark thanks to the light coming from my helmet.

I looked for a place to seat in the chamber. A long sigh came out as I sat down. She sat near me, but not too close.

She sat with her arms wrapped around her legs.

“what’s your name?”

“what about you, ahjusshi?”

ahjusshi? what? ahjusshi!

She glanced at me with a blank look. No, maybe, she’s just looking at the slightly-annoyed face that’s in front of her. Is he mad or something? or, is that just how he looks all the time?

Regardless, I knowing I couldn’t stay mad at her, I told her what she wanted to know.

“I’m not an ahjusshi. I’m only twenty four.”

Who would’ve thought that I’d hear something like that at this age.

“They say you’re an ahjusshi once you finish your military service.”

She answered with her head resting on your knees, and her face... still blank.

Who the hell made up that stupid expression?

“Who said that! tell me! you know that’s wrong, right?” I got excited without realizing. I shouldn’t get so worked up.

“Whew... never mind. What am I going to get out of arguing with a kid. It’s Jung Yoon-Hwan. Happy?”

“Lee Hye-Won.” Lee Hye-Won... It’s a pretty name. But, can’t you do something about the way you’re sitting?

“Alright. Can I Just call you Hye-Won?” She nodded in that same very position.

“Do you know what’s going on?”

“You mean this fucked up situation?”

“yeah.”

She’s got a mouth on her. I wonder if all kids are like this these days.

“I’m not sure what’s going on. I’ve been dreaming some stuff lately, but...”

“Have you dreamt of a white room before?” With that question, the look in her face slightly changed. Staring at me with a suspicious look.

I knew everything then.

“That’s not a dream, and this isn’t one either.”

“How do you know that?”

“You can use fire, right?”

She nodded again to answer my question. This kid really doesn’t have an ounce of cuteness in her. Wait, is this supposed to be cute? Whatever. I never was the type to take interest in girls anyway.

“You see my helmet shining like this. It’s a skill. It’s called the Divine Power.”

“So?”

“I can use this in real life.” She had an empty look on her face this time.

“You haven’t used it before, have you? In real life, I mean?”

“No.”

“You can use it in real life. I was dead before I came back to life...”

“Ahjusshi...”

“It’s oppa.”

“So, you don’t get tired.”

“I told you, it’s Oppa.”

She didn’t react to what I said, and just kept on looking.

“Alright... you win. My skill, The Divine Power, isn’t something that drains my energy.”

“What do you mean?”

“Your energy gets consumed every time you use your fire... but this Divine Power comes from external sources.”

A path that was created from the heart, and the Divine Power flows to me through it. Once enough of it is collected, I can use it to my will.

Simply put, my body is like a container and my heart is like the hose that fills it up.

That’s why it’s impossible for me to get tired.

“that’s...bullshit...”

Chapter 14: Survival Combat

Simply put, my body is like a container and my heart is like the hose that fills it up.

That's why it's impossible for me to get tired.

“that's...bullshit...”

“You didn't have to bullshit.”

Of course, this power was quite effective against the undead. The mastery of Lyfedearc, and Lyfedearc's Divine Law, I wouldn't have any issues combating the undead with these two.

Plus, I've already knocked away more than enough.

“Then, next question. What was the first skill you acquired?”

“Fire conjurer”

“And, what did you purchase with the points you earned from killing those dogs?”

“Are you talking about the reward search?”

I nodded.

When I nodded, she gotten herself up.

“Nothing.”

“What?”

“I said, I bought nothing, because... I didn’t know how to use it...”

“sigh...”

This girl, does she not know how to play games? Wait, could I be the strange one here?”

I glanced at the girl with a discontent look my face while holding the back of my neck. She had her back against the wall with her head down.

She could die... if I leave her alone.

“For today, come along with me. When this combat thing is over, be sure to buy something back in the white room.”

She picked her head up after hearing me. There were tear streaks on her cheeks.

“Are, are you crying?”

She quickly wiped her face with her arm.

“No, I’m not.”

You are crying. I thought to myself without letting the words slip through my lips. Yeah, what am I going to do about you crying anyway.

“anyways...remember this. Anything can help you, so be sure to get something that’ll be really useful to you on the battlefield. But, it’ll be best to purchase a skill that has defensive properties. Or, something that supports fire conjurers.”

“How? I can I buy something when I don’t know anything?”

“let me... tell you how you can buy stuff. First.”

I told her what she could do with points she earns from battles.

The kept nodding.

“Understand?”

“Yes, I think I know now.”

“Since you’re a fire conjurer... I don’t know what you’ll need. You could just keep upgrading the first skill you acquired. Or, you can change skills. That’s all up to you. But, be sure to think it through. If you make a mistake, you could die. I don’t know...what will happen if you die in here, but I don’t think it’ll be pleasant.”

Before I could finish the sentence, she nodded.

“By the way... you really... don’t have what it takes to be cute.”

“hmph.”

Yeah, she really doesn’t.

“But...”

eh?

She turned her head a bit.

“Thank you for saving me.”

Hey, can’t you say that to me while you look at me? Why did you have to turn your head like that?

She’s really... having a hard time being honest with herself...

“Okay, thanks for telling me. I’m going to head out, what are you going to do?”

She quickly turned her head towards me after hearing what I had said.

“Why?”

“This fight... It’s not going to be finished with just one round. They’re going to $\square \vdash \square$ coming at us. It’ll be best to gain as many points as possible while they’re so little of them.”

“ah...”

“If we’re to survive, we need to get as many of them as possible. It’s a game. understand?”

keke.

I laughed at how stupid I sounded. What kind of game puts its players’ lives on the line like this?

“Why are you laughing like that?”

“because this entire situation is funny. It’s unrealistic, don’t you think?”

“It’s not funny at all to me.”

“I’m not laughing because it’s actually funny. Long ago, Charley Chapelin said something like this. Life is a tragedy when seen up close, but a comedy when seen from afar. Isn’t that what we’re going through?

“A tragedy up close...”

“Somewhat like it. So, what do you want to do? I’m going to head out. This place seems safe for now... but, I don’t know how long it’ll be like this for.”

“Then, I’ll go as well.”

She clenched her jaws while giving a strong look. It looked as if he promised herself something.

“Alright, shall we go together? Just to let you know, I have three skills: The Divine Power, Mastery, and Life Absorption.”

“That’s a lot.”

“I picked them after a careful consideration. And... I even have a plan.”

“And that is?”

“I’m going to set a fire.”

I thought of it before. This is a big forest, isn’t it? And, there should be zombies spread out everywhere, While I have a safe place to hide in. The Stone Chamber, that is.

I can set the forest on fire, and wait it out in there so the smoke doesn’t get in. I will need to make necessary preparations... but that’s not going to be of much work.

To be precise, in a fire situation, the biggest threat is suffocation under smoke, but that Stone Chamber has enough room to provide us with protection.

“That should be enough to kill off all the zombies in the forest.”

“I like that idea.”

“it’s good, isn’t it? And, it’ll be just a test.”

“What do you mean?”

“If we can gather points by killing them with a fire like that... it’ll be really helpful for the upcoming fights in the future.

Yes, if they’d only award us with points after all the zombies die from the fire...

That would be a great help to us, because it'll mean that we can use the terrain to gain points. How could this not be of any help?

“So... I’m going to have to ask you for a favor.”

“What is that.”

“Please take your clothes off.”

She looked at me dumbfounded, probably because of the question that she didn’t anticipate.

“All done.”

With her approval, I got her to remove her upper clothing and with it, I covered the entrance to the Stone Chamber. It was to prevent, or at least reduce the amount of smoke from coming into the Chamber, as smoke tends to rise and linger at a certain level.

It was meant to keep us alive. But, if things got bad, I could use my Divine Power.

Thanks to my plan, Hye-Won was only wearing a tank-top. There was no other way.

My upper clothing had been torn. And, it’s not like I was going to run around in my underwear.

Chapter 15: Survival Combat

Thanks to my plan, Hye-Won was only wearing a tank-top. There was no other way.

My upper clothing had been torn. And, it's not like I was going to run around in my underwear.

“Then, I’ll get started.”

“Alright.”

Hye-Won placed her hand on a tree by the entrance. She began focusing on her breathing and before long, fire engulfed her fingertips, spreading out to her hands, and then onto the tree.

The fire was pretty hot when it spread to other trees, making it grow bigger and bigger.

The trees were beginning to catch on fire quicker and quicker. My plan was in progress, but I could see that it was taking a toll on Hye-Won.

“That’s enough. The rest can be done by the old way.”

She nodded, and came to my side. I moved in front of her, having her at my back.

I picked up few sticks and lit them on fire before throwing them onto the grass.

The fire was getting out of control, spreading wildly across the trees.

kuahhh.

A zombie approached. Probably was attracted by the heat and light. But, who cares, right? They're not even a threat anymore, really.

heek! puhk!

Fires began to take the trees one by one. First, the branches were getting burned from the tips then the trunks began to burn away slowly.

The burning trees lit up the dark forest. Good. It's burning really well.

With this... I'll burn all the god damn zombies.

“Okay, let's head back inside.”

We slowly walked back into the Stone Chamber.

Strangely, our smart phones seemed to work here. So, I took mine out and noted everything that was going on using one of its key features.

1. Every morning at 2am.
2. Time stops once I'm in the white room.
3. All skills acquired in this place can be used immediately.
4. Any item I have on me can be brought with me to the white room.

5. I can buy almost anything with points

6. The Divine Power can be used infinitely, but there aren't much use for them.

That is what I wrote down.

The Divine Power.

The power that's been bestowed by the God, I can cover my entire body with it and on weapons as well.

It's a quite useful skill.

By the way, could I use the points to buy an immortal medicine

or something like it? Some kind of herbs

or potion that can keep me from dying.

that would be... very nice.

Wait, it might actually better if there was something that can turn me into Superman. A body that can't be harmed by anything in this world, a body that's stronger than steel...

“What are you doing?”

The girl seems to have gotten more comfortable with me, seeing how she's sitting with her back against the wall and her legs stretched out now. Somehow her legs looked really sexy to me. I couldn't keep my eyes off them.

That reminds me, this girl, she gets worn out whenever she uses her fire skill. And, the face she makes when she's exhausted has a somewhat sex appeal to it.

Not good.

“Writing notes.”

“You're cold hearted. Writing notes at a situation like this...”

“Think so?”

Her comment made my head tilt a bit. To my surprise, I had been adjusting to this environment all too well.

I wonder if there's anyone who'd take this much initiative? Probably not, everyone is different.

“I should bring some cigarettes with me next time. All this waiting is starting to bore me.”

“Ahjusshi, how many times have you been here?”

“This is my third time, what about you?”

“Me too.”

“Then.... aren't you a bit too weak?”

“If I pushed myself.... I can use the fire skill for about 10 times.”

“Ah. So, you're saying you've easily gotten through the first and second stage?”

Cooking those damned dogs.... couldn't have been that difficult since they're so weak.

“Where do you live?”

“What about you, ahjusshi?”

“Me? I live in Eunpyeong, Seoul.”

“I live in Mapo, Seoul.”

“You don’t live too far off...”

“But, why are you asking that?”

“Eh? I was wondering if we could meet up in the real world. I’m not positive... that we’ll meet again in here, but it would be best to plan for the next stage if we do end up seeing each other again in here.”

“a plan...”

“Even if it’s just a plan, it doesn’t have to be anything big.... For an example, you can bring anything you have with you into this place from the real world. Just like your school uniform, and my smart phone.”

“So?”

“From my experience, I’ve been getting dragged in here every

morning at 2am. So, it would be in our best interest to prepare some items beforehand. Like, water bottles. We're both parched. And, look at me. Can't you see what I'm wearing?"

"You do have a point."

"Be sure to prepare something to help protect yourself, but money is the problem..."

I was about to use up all the tuition money I had saved up from working part-time jobs.

sigh... thinking about money situation at a time like this is just great. just... great... It's not easy living in Korea at this age.

While talking, I pulled a water bottle from my backpack and tossed it over to her. She glared at me for a moment.

"It's water. Drink up."

"Thank you."

She took the water bottle opening to her lips and began gulping down, then tossed it back over to me so I could drink the rest. I needed to drink too. I was dying of thirst.

Gulp. Gulp.

“whew.”

I tightened the water bottle cap and placed it next to me.

“Get some rest. I’ll go stand watch.”

I could hear the fire spreading outside. Faint noises of trees cracking and burning to crisps can be heard from afar, while the fire consumed every bit of it.

Just how long are we supposed to survive in this place? I had no idea. I quickly looked over to Hye-Won to see if she might have an idea, but she was already falling asleep.

She had passed out.

I checked the time on my phone. I stood up after seeing roughly five hours had passed.

Chapter 16: Survival Combat

I checked the time on my phone. I stood up after seeing roughly five hours had passed.

I left Hye-Won, who was sleeping on the floor like she had no care in the world, to head outside. Everything by the Stone Chamber had already been burnt to crisp. Ashes were everywhere, but I could see the fire still blazing far away.

One thing about forest fires is that, they only get bigger as they spread. I should at least be thankful that there's nothing left here, even there are some heat left over from the fir.

The night was dark as usual with the sky black, but the fire burning far away helped me see what was around me. The light coming from my Divine Power could also be the reason why because I've turned that into a head light.

There were corpses rolling over on the ground after being burned by the fire. It really was a good idea. They're all burned. This is just great.

The night went on, but the fire taking the forest whole was a sight to see.

The guy who put me in this damn situation couldn't have possibly thought that I'd set the whole place on fire, including the zombies. But... what if he doesn't give me any points because I killed them all with fire?

No. Either way, it was a good decision because I needed to test out my theory. Even as a noob in games, you're supposed to check the rules to make sure what you're doing is right.

While I was staring off into the burned forest, thinking about the whole situation, I heard steps coming from behind me. I turned around to see Hye-Won walking towards me with a satisfied look on her face.

“You awake?”

She nodded.

Still chic as ever, Miss Hye-Won.

“It's all going according to plan. Look at all those corpses laying on the ground. They're all getting wiped out.”

She looked at all the zombies getting burned in the wildfire.

“Where... do you think we are?”

“Who knows, what I do know is that this isn't over. So, be sure to buy some skills when you return to the real world this time, alright?”

She nodded.

We saw a huge shadow coming towards our way through the fire. It was making its way by breaking off the burned trees.

That thing didn't get killed off by the fire?

I looked as it got closer, showing itself from the dark as it stood in front of me and Hye-Won.

“Sigh...”

It doesn't startle me even the smallest bit now. A monster that I had never even thought to exist stood before me.

What would stitched corpses look like? This monster was about 4 meters in height, comprised of countless human corpses that made it into what it was.

Strangely, it appeared to resemble a lizard in form, but the grotesque sight of clunked body parts made me want to throw up.

Fuck.

I knew it was too easy.

They had other things planned besides the zombies, is that it? Sending us something like this, well.. isn't this just great.

grahhh

grahh

uahh

Stitched together, the corpses are making noises.

“Hye-Won, stand behind me!”

I ran towards the gigantic monster with my flail. As I ran towards it, the monster raised something that looked like it's front leg.

It was trying to stomp me.

Damn!

Quickly, I changed my direction to the side. I barely missed the foot. Kwaang! The ground began to split.

“Kuk.”

Debris bombarded my body. My eyes began tearing up from the pain. God Damn it!

grahhh

gahhh

uahh.

I can see countless eyes from the corpses focusing on me.

Alright. I'm going to do.... as I planned to before!

I ran forward again. His hand hit the ground behind me. Kwang! Ignoring the loud noise behind me, I moved on, raising my flail behind his foot.

“haap!”

Pukk! pukk! pukk!

The flail blessed with Divine Power was smashing through the corpses that made up its back foot.

I crushed 3 skulls. Blue flame sparked from where my flail connected with their skulls. Interesting enough, the corpses separated themselves from the body, falling onto the ground.

I see. So, this is the method to take them out!

hweek!

While I was rejoicing over progress, I could hear something flying towards me behind my back. Damn! I don't think I can dodge this....

puhhk!

“Kuk!”

I flew and hit the ground. My entire body was in excruciating pain, but I didn't let go of my flail.

I can't afford to lose my flail! That strong thought kept me from losing consciousness and falling to the ground.

“Lowest level wound treatment! Lowest level wound treatment!”

The light from the flail diminished, and my body began glowing. My sight returned slowly, and the pain reduced

“Lowest level wound treatment! Lowest level wound treatment!”

I healed my body like a damsel in distress while keeping my eyes on what was in front of me.

The stitched-corpse abomination was slowly stretching its arm out towards me.

“fuck!”

I quickly threw my body forward, hoping to get some momentum. Before I knew it, I was rolling on the ground. I heard another loud-cracking noise behind me from his hand hitting the cold, hard ground.

“uwahhh!”

Divine Power was focused back into the flail. I aimed for the zombies in his body area.

They quickly began to burn by the blue flame. Then, within a split second, I ran because I could see him getting ready for another attack with his rear-right leg cocking back at a certain angle.

Kwang! kwnag!

I dodged, then I made my way to his rear-right leg swinging my flail with all my strength.

Puk! puk!

Few corpses fell off the body, making it hard for the leg to support the body weight. It collapses. Alright!

This is my chance!

I ran towards it again. Losing balance like that, it'll be difficult for him to attack me like he did before.

With that thought in mind, I continued to swing my flail at the remaining zombies in the rear-right leg. Blue flames followed the attack, burning every zombie I had connected with.

At least ten zombies must've been exorcised from that attack. This huge body began to crumble.

kekeke. Now, it's time for me to move back.

And, I did.

Chapter 17: Survival Combat

That's what I was thinking as I headed towards his collapsed rear leg where the corpses were still moving. I swung my flail at them mercilessly.

A blue spark lit up every time I hit them.

I must've exorcised around ten zombies or so when his body began to fall apart.

kekeke. This is when I take my step back.

And, that's when it happened.

Hwahhhk!

I saw Hye-Won in a nearby place, shooting fire. I could see that she was going pale, but her flames had already engulfed his entire body.

His body immediately fell down.

It appears that the bond that was holding the corpses together had lost its strength. All the zombies were now moving on their own, seeming like it was part of a hell scene.

As they were moving, twitching, there was something in the

midst of them that took notice.

He was definitely different from the zombies, and it sent a shiver down my spine just at the site of it.

Firstly, he was very slender. It was like a mummy with long, skinny, and dried up figure with even longer fingernails to boast for. And, I could see the two blue lights in his eyes. Is he one?

While I was thinking, he crouched down. Then, he jumped.

Pahht!

What? How is he so fast?

In an instant, he jumped over 4 meters in height, and about 10 meters in distance before coming at me like a wild beast.

“God damn it!”

I gripped my flail as hard as I could while focusing on the Divine Power. I ran towards him as light was shining bright as ever on the three spikes.

So, you jumped?

Alright, then! I cocked my harm back and released my flail on to

his head.

But, I knew something went wrong immediately. Was his hand covering his face?

kaahhhng!

His hand clashed with my flail. His arm twisted back, and his body forced down from the pressure.

A blue flame sparked on his arm.

But, he didn't lose his aggression towards me, and crouched like a wolf, staring at me, as he fell on the ground.

Fuck, he's not going to make it easy, is he? To make matters worse... he wasn't making any puhk sounds. I was hearing kaaahhng. It even felt like I was hitting rock...

Is he a ghoul?

In video games, there are undead monsters called ghouls that are ranked higher than zombies. But... ghouls are originally evil spirits from Arab histories. It was only adapted as an undead monster in the modern society.

First, the ghoul's characteristics are that... they are faster than zombies. And, their bodies are much harder. That is all I know

right now.

I believe that right there is a ghoul. The thing is... it appears to be rather much stronger than the ghouls that I've seen in games.

Wasn't he supposed to be hard as a rock? My flail infused with Divine Power did only that much damage?

grrrrrrrr.

The ghoul was making its move while spurting a threatening sound from its mouth. The zombies began to move.

Dan!

There must be around 30 zombies.... if I was to get surrounded by them and the ghoul here, there's no way I'd win.

If that's the case... I'll need to this end this soon... but how am I going to pull that ghoul in when he's so careful?

I guess... I'll just have to give him something to bite, so I can smash his head in.

Sigh. Sometimes my bravery gets the best of me.

Kwahhhk!

His dirty fangs sank into my arm. kek! Fuck! that hurts! He was biting down, but his fangs weren't piercing my skin. I wonder... if it's because of the steel body ability? It's working alright!

I released my grip on the flail from my right hand. Then, I tightly wrapped its chains around his neck as hard as I could.

You're not going anywhere now, you bastard!

hwaahk!

kuwahh!

I activated the Divine Power with him in my lock. His face sparked blue flames, burning smoke into the air.

It's a flame that doesn't burn anything from the real world. The ghouls scream. It tries as hard as it can to get away, but I stood my ground, holding him in my arms as hard as I could.

Do they expect me to beat this thing to its death? I'm just going to burn his ass with my Divine Power!

Keeeeeeek!

The ghouls screamed once last time before it got quiet. I could feel its body harden right after.

“Huk. huk.”

I tossed his dead weight over to the side to get some air.

“Lowest injury heal.”

paaht.

Damn. That hit the spot.

I pushed myself up, and picked up my flail. I could see zombies walking towards me.

Hwaahhk!

I saw a fireball, the size of their head, flying towards them.

hwaahrrrk!

It hit their head. They fall to the ground suffering. I turned to my side to see where it came from. It was Hye-Won throwing the fireballs.

Did she learn a new trick?

It's quite impressive.

I, too, went over to kill the zombies that were heading towards me.

Puk! Puk!

Did we exorcise them all?

One. two. three. four.

Yeah, they're all dead.

“Yo, that was pretty good!”

I waved as I walked towards Hye-Won, but I could see her face as white as snow.

“This... hahk. is hard....”

“I can see it. Try looking for something when you see reward search window again. You'll need to make sure your stamina doesn't get consumed as much. Don't you agree? We could be up against something even stronger next time. If you want to live, try looking for it.”

Chapter 18: Survival Combat

“Yo, that was pretty good!”

I waved as I walked towards Hye-Won, but I could see her face as white as snow.

“This... hahk. is hard....”

“I can see it. Try looking for something when you see reward search window again. You’ll need to make sure your stamina doesn’t get consumed as much. Don’t you agree? We could be up against something even stronger next time. If you want to live, try looking for it.”

She nods.

Even if I talk to her seriously, all she does is nod her head.

When I turned my head, I could see the sun rising over the lands. It was morning.

The mountain was still burning, with the fire refusing to die out. The rising sun and the fire had an odd, yet beautiful combination going.

It was strange. Then, the world turned all-white.

This...

“Hye-Won...”

I turned my head again to see Hye-Won, but she was already gone and everything had already turned white.

“Tch. in the end, I couldn’t ask for her number...”

Something appeared in front of me as I was fidgeting over what did not happen.

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

Ability : Lyfedearc Divine Law LV 1. Absorb LV 1. Steel Body LV. 1. Lyfedearc’s New Warrior Flail Mastery Lv 1.

Weapon : Flail

Status : Second Test Passed

Point : 1621P

“Huh?”

Damn. There’s so many. Is it even okay for me to have this many? All I had was 30P just before I passed this test, but 1621?

“So setting everything on fire helped....”

If I only had killed zombies to earn this many points, I would've had to take out 1621 of them. And, since the ghoul was the boss... let's say he gave 30P. That still means I'd had to worry about 1600 of them.

I should start setting fires more often. This is quite useful.

“Now, then... should I start doing what I had planned? Lyfedearc search.”

Currently, my main skill is the Divine Power and the Lyfedearc's New Warrior Flail Mastery. I'm alive because of these 2, aren't I?

I might as well search everything that's related to Lyfedearc.

Reward Search

Lyfedearc Divine Law Lv 2 – 500P

Lyfedearc Divine Law Lv 1 Lower ability – 10P

Lyfedearc New Warrior Blunt Mastery Lv 2 – 100P

Lyfedearc New Warrior Shield Mastery Lv 1 – 10P

Lyfedearc New Warrior Armor Mastery Lv 1 – 10P

Lyfedearc New Warrior Physical Ability Mastery Lv – 1 – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Divine Pouch – 100P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Holy Necklace – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Holy Bracelet – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Copper Helmet – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Copper Gloves – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Copper Armor – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Copper boots – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Copper Arm Guards – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Copper Iron Mace – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Copper Flail – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Copper Club – 10P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Tin Helmet – 50P

Lyfedearc New Apprentice Warrior Tin Gloves – 50P

And so, a list of Lyfedearc appeared. Yeah, I knew it. Including Blunt Mastery, there are other skills that can be learned. But, who

would've thought that Armor Mastery would exist as well?

Shall I see... what the Armor Mastery is all about?

[Lyfedearc New Warrior Armor Mastery Lv 1 – 10P]

Armor Mastery skill that is learned by the new warriors of Lyfedearc.

Just having Armor doesn't make a complete defense. An specialized skill that uses armor to defend and attack exists in the world. The warriors of Lyfedearc not only learn the martial arts of the armor, but train to fight by applying the Divine Power and the Divine Law into their armor.

Isn't this just great?

Does this mean that I can use the Divine Power to increase my defense? oh, ho, do I hear my combat power increasing now?

Now... should I start assuming that the three sets are going to have an incredible effect? I also need to learn other skills regarding the Divine Power Lv. 1.

“Lower Skill.”

Reward Search

Lyfedearc Divine Power Lv 1 Lower Skill List

Basic Wound Treatment (Learned)

Basic Disease Treatment – 10P

Basic Blessing – 10P

Basic Cold Resistance – 10P

Basic Heat Resistance – 10P

Basic Poison Resistance – 10P

Basic Electric Resistance – 10P

Basic Acid Resistance – 10P

Basic Purification – 10P

Basic Divine Body (Learned)

Basic Blood Blessing (Learned)

Basic Slaughter Sacrifice – 10P

Basic Divine Armor – 10P

Basic Physical Resistance – 10P

Basic Strength Increase – 10P

Basic Agility Increase – 10P

Basic Senses Increase – 10P

Basic Divine Light – 10P

Basic Divine Grant – 10P

whoa, there's 19 of them. That's a lot! And, they all want 10P! It's

so expensive! If I didn't set the zombies on fire, I don't know what I would've done. I probably ended up struggling to learn all these damn skills.

Since I know 3 skills out of 19, does this mean I need 170P in total? But... just by looking at it, it looks like I really do need to learn them all.

God damn it.

“Purchase all.”

Pahht!

A light shined, and it began to felt like something, a whole lot of things, were flooding into my head. I understood every bit of it.

This feeling... strangely, I can never get used to it. Sigh.

“Now... How many points do I have left... 1621 minus 170 should be... 1451. I still have quite a bit left, actually. Well, with the way things are right now... I might as well learn it all, right?”

I opened my mouth while looking into the Reward Search window.

“Purchase: Divine Law Lv 2. Blunt Mastery Lv 2. Shield Mastery Lv 1. Armor Mastery Lv 1. Physical Ability Mastery Lv. 1 New

Apprentice Warrior Divine Pouch. New Apprentice Warrior Holy Necklace. New Apprentice Warrior Holy Bracelet.”

Hwahhhk!

More light shined. And just as before, new information was being engraved in my head.

And, that’s when I realized that I could utilize 3 skills under Divine Law Lv 2, as soon as I had learned it.

Basic Injury Treatment. Basic Divine Light. Basic Purification.

Just why are these things the only thing I can learn.

Anyways, 750P disappeared just like that, and only 801P remained.

Now, what should I learn?

That reminds me, I recall seeing a skill that can be used for defense. Should I check that out?

Chapter 19: Survival Combat

Anyways, 750P disappeared just like that, and only 801P remained.

Now, what should I learn?

That reminds me, I recall seeing a skill that can be used for defense. Should I check that out?

“iron body technique search.”

Reward search

Iron Body Technique – 500p

Lyfedearc's Divine Warrior Iron Body Technique – 500p

Angghalk Rigidity Skill – 1000p

Violt Vision Rigidity Skill – 10000p

Derahal iron body technique – 5000p

Viore iron body technique – 1500p

something... incredible showed up, didn't it?

“let's see..”

[Iron Body Technique]

A skill that uses mana by hardening the user's body through absorbing the energy from nature. It's called Rigidity Skill because it fortifies the body by expending mana. You will be able to gain physical enhancements through increased physical performances, but it will disappear if the mana is depleted.

The iron body technique was created by combining the ability to consume mana and to store it in one's body. Storing mana in one's body is also called Rigid Ability.

“It's sort of... like the stuff in martial art stories.”

Is this it? Collecting ki and stuff. Basically, I'll need to collect as much ki in me as possible to make my body stronger. Isn't that what it is?

Then again... it's kind of different from typical martial arts...

Oh yeah. I wonder if there's such thing as a Godly Arts?

“Search Godly Arts.”

Reward search

Godly Arts – 10,000,000p

What the hell?

[Godly Arts]

A martial arts that's been passed down the generations by the dark factions of the religion, Zoroaster, which began in Persia. It's official name is angra mainu abatiaz. Later on, a Zoroaster faction by the name of white lotus from China, contributed to finding a new nation after overthrowing the Mongol Yuan Empire.

The Godly Arts are divided into three different parts: the Godly Extreme Nihilism Breathing, Godly Demon Foot Technique, and Godly Demon Destruction Technique.

So they do have it.

hah...

Well this just confirmed everything, didn't it? Fuck. Should I just try to learn martial arts?

No, wait. The very first skill I picked up was the Divine Arts.

Which means that I've already set my skill tree to Divine category.

“Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Iron Body Technique.”

[Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Iron Body Technique]

Life and death. The God of blood, Lyfedearc gifted a combat skill to the followers.

As it’s a skill that requires using Divine Law on the body to enhance its properties, it is possible to learn this very skill from the God with Lyfedearc’s order. It’s much more effective than the normal Iron Body Technique.

It’s powers will be in folds with Divine Law in use.

But, this skill will stress the body’s speed, muscle regeneration, and enhancing the internals.

“This... is incredible too.”

It’s said that this is a skill for the apprentice warrior. Then, I should learn this. Of course, I should.

“Purchase Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Iron Body Technique.”

paahht.

A bright light took over me, and I knew everything about the Iron Body Technique. Now, all there's left is 310P.

Okay, now... what do I need.

“Divine Arts Lv 2 Lower Skill List.”

Reward Search

Lyfedearc Divine Arts Lv 2Lower Skill List

1. Basic Wound Treatment (Learned)
2. Basic Disease Treatment – 50P
3. Basic Blessing – 50P
4. Basic Resistance – 50P
5. Basic Purification – 50P
6. Basic Physical Tolerance – 50P
7. Basic Divine Light (Learned)
8. Basic Divine Grant – 50P
9. Basic Physical Resistance – 50P
10. Basic Divine Body – 50P
11. Basic Blood Blessing – 50P
12. Basic Slaughter Sacrifice – 50P
13. Basic Divine Armor – 50P
14. Divine Bind – 50P
15. Divine Attack – 50P
16. Divine Recovery – 50P

The list changed up a bit. Resistance options have been combined, that goes for the physical buffs as well. What is bind and attack skills?

But, I thought... this was a system where I had to learn the Lv 1 skills in order to move onto the next on?

I'll need to test this theory out later. But, first... I have 301P left. So, does that mean they'll be gone once I learn 6 skills?

hmm...

"I'll learn: Basic Divine Body. Basic Physical Tolerance. Basic Resistance. Basic Purification. Divine Attack. Divine Bind."

shhht!

Another light consumed me. Same as always, nothing too different. Once the light disappeared, I knew everything.

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

Ability : Lyfedearc Divine Arts LV 2. Absorb LV 1. Steel Body LV. 1. Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Flail Mastery Lv 2. Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Shield Mastery Lv 1. Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Armor Mastery Lv 1. Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Steed Body Skill Lv 1.

Weapon : Flail

Accessory – Necklace : Lyfedearc's Apprenticeship Warrior Necklace

Accessory – Bracelet : Lyfedearc's Apprenticeship Warrior Bracelet.

Tool : Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Holy Bag.

Status : Third Test Passed

Point : 1P

It was a warrior's set. On my neck was a necklace made of silver, and a bracelet was on my right wrist.

They both had a circular shape.

I guess this is the mark of the Divine. That's not all. The Divine Power that flowed inside me was different than before.

I felt energized. Or, should I say I had more than enough energy radiating from me?

What I know for sure is that I was stronger than before.

Even the amount of Divine Power that was flowing into me was at least 5 times more now. Is it okay for me to be this strong so fast?

Just how I could read information about the items before buying them, I had their information flooding in my head after purchase as well.

Chapter 20: Survival Combat

It was a warrior's set. On my neck was a necklace made of silver, and a bracelet was on my right wrist.

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Just how I could read information about the items before buying them, I had their information flooding in my head after purchase as well.

For an example, both the bracelet and the necklace will provide additional 5% Divine Power to its wearer when that person happens to have Divine Arts Lv. 1.

Which means its effects will be boosted by 20% when I wear both of them. If I was to learn the Divine Body, the Divine Powers at Lv. 1 will skyrocket to 50%.

Basically, it'll be as if I'm getting an increase of 70% in Divine Power through the items and skill. And, when the Divine Arts turn Lv 2, the effects will triple from when it was Lv 1. The amount of Divine Power that flows into my body is just increasing that's all.

Each item will equally increase by 5%. Once I learn Basic Divine Body Skills, that'll be another 50%. It'll be like increasing the Divine Power 5 times over compared to Lv. 1.

What is this.

It's dangerous.

Sadly, Divine Power is mainly used for treating wounds and such. Or, enhancing the body, but... how can I complain about that?

Especially, Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Iron Body Technique. Thank god I learned this. Because with this, I'll be able to use the ground works of this skill.

I have all the information regarding the Iron Body Technique in my head. No. It's all in my instincts.

The Apprentice Warrior's Iron Body Technique is much better and effective than the regular Iron Body.

Reasons?

I receive the Divine Power from God through my heart.

The Divine Power continuously flows out from my body, but it stops once I use a certain amount of it.

Shall I say it's like a faucet shutting off the water? Like, stopping the water from over filling the bucket.

I think the regular Iron Body skill will require its user to recuperate once they've used up all their power. They have to. But, unlike them, my power just recovers all the consumed energy on its own. So, I don't need to waste my time recuperating. And, that alone makes it worthwhile. Another thing is that the Holy Bag, itself, is a very special item.

It's a gift that God gives to his followers. The bracelet and the necklace are both gifts but the Holy Bag itself is more special than the other items.

I'm now able to put any item in this Holy Bag regardless of its size. I believe I can put about 200kg worth of items in the bag. And, no matter what I put in, the size and weight of the bag won't change. That's not all. Once you're the owner of the Holy Bag, you can summon it to your right hand whenever you please. I can summon it to my right hand just by calling it to me.

Should I relate this a game's inventory chart of some sorts? More and more, I'm beginning to think that all this had been thought out very carefully by someone.

But, it's not like it mattered anyway.

While I thought about everything, I saw texts appear before me on the white wall.

Test complete.

Player Jung-Yoon Hwan

Return

So they're sending me home now?

I saw a light. I was back to where I originally was before getting pulled into the game.

“Whew... I survived.”

I was sitting back in my room in same clothes with everything just where I had left it.

Backpack, hockey plates... they were all there. I took everything off and tossed it over to the corner.

I sat down like a dead-tired dog, laying on the bed afterwards. I closed my eyes and opened them again. yeah, I'm back in my room now.

“yeah, I'm alive...”

I took a deep breath and closed my eyes again. My body was exhausted, and I couldn't feel anything. I could feel the dead tiredness closing in on me.

mmh.

I don't know how much time had passed, but I'm awake now. It was already dark outside. I stretched out my hand, searching for the phone, and looked at the time. It was only 6. I came back at 2 and it's only 6?

“This... is probably because of the Divine Body.”

Divine Body. A passive skill that circulates the Divine Power all throughout the body. Thanks to it, the Divine Power flows within me.

Stamina recovery, fatigue recovery, increased recovery rate, disease resistance, poison resistance. This is just an all-rounded skill. What I like best about is that it doesn't consume Divine Power just because this skill is active.

By the way, I had no idea that I'd feel this rejuvenated just from 4 hours of sleep...

“Today... is my resting day.”

6 day working hours are insane. I need to rest on the 7th day. I'm not superman. I don't want to go anywhere. I just want to go home and rest.

Why?

I have no money. that's why.

“Wait...can I... purchase money using points? There's nothing wrong with purchasing money using points, but how am I supposed to bring that back here with me? It's possible for me to carry stuff over there, but I don't think it's possible for me to bring items from there to here....”

I thought about the Apprentice Warrior set for an example. That goes for the Holy Bag as well.

“OH, wait... the Holy Bag. I can... call it...”

I can summon it.

Summon. I can summon it.

“If I can use Divine Power in this world, that means...”

I took my right hand and looked at it had. Can I do it? can i?

“Summon Holy Bag.”

The Divine Power becomes active with my conscious. Part of the Divine Power that was flowing inside me migrates towards my

hand, making a light that brightened my eyes

After the light disappeared, something was left behind.

It was the Holy Bag that I purchased earlier.

“WOW...”

It works. Yeah, It worked. With this... I can bring back items from that world! Everything from this world can be taken with me, and I can bring stuff back from that world with this! All I have to do is use this Holy Bag!

I placed my hand in the bag.

“HUH?”

I felt something when I don't remember putting anything inside it yet. What's this? Is this... a wire? no? what is this?

I put my hand deep inside to pull it out. What was inside surprised me.

“is this... the necklace I had?”

It was the necklace that I purchased.

Chapter 21: Hostility

I felt something when I don't remember putting anything inside it yet. What's this? Is this... a wire? no? what is this?

I put my hand deep inside to pull it out. What was inside surprised me.

“is this... the necklace I had?”

It was the necklace that I purchased.

I wore the necklace and the bracelet that was inside. I could feel the difference in the amount of Divine Power that was flowing inside me.

Ha. They should create a new religion with this. I should just go become a fulltime healer, and make money that way.

A miracle bringer, even with a title like that who's to say I'm not the one?

But... I'm not the type of person who's into that stuff.

“haha. All I do these days is fight and worry about making a living. Some life I'm living now.”

Main characters in Japanese manga and anime that do stuff like this don't even worry about money. So, why am I always worrying about money?

Even though I learned about this because of that...

Stomach rumbles.

My stomach started talking to me as I was staring down at the floor where my Holy Bag and other items were put down.

I didn't have anything to eat there, did I? I should take something eat next time. I mean, fighting in that damn forest took all day.

Next time, I might not be able to come back so soon.

I changed my clothes to a normal denim jeans and a long-sleeved shirt before going outside. Searched my pockets for some cigarettes, bit down one with my lips and walked through the warm street.

Yeah, I'm going to treat myself today. That's right. I'm going to eat as much as I can today. Something extremely tasty.

“Tsk Tsk.”

Leaving a well-known steakhouse in Itaewon, I picked my teeth with a toothpick. The skies were already welcoming the darkness while I stared into the crimson heavens.

Let's see... I'll need to pack some dry foods if I don't want to starve, right? With that thought in mind, my steps automatically headed towards the mart.

I swept the whole place, almost. Starting with the dry foods, calorie balanced stuff, and to the chocolate bars. Of course, I didn't forget to get the water bottles. These were the only things I decided to take since I didn't need to pack a first aid kit thanks to my Divine Power skills.

Food and drinks is what I mainly purchased. I didn't think I'd need to get anything else because my Divine Power increased enough that it sped up my recovery. Hunger was something I still didn't have control over.

“Is that...”

I saw something while walking past the tool section.

A Nail Gun.

A tool that shoots nails. There's a chargable one and a lever-based one. Both of them could make a great weapon.

Long-distance... 50 meters is overdoing it, but it could be deadly to anything within that distance.

I think it could even pierce through bones if you got shot within 10 meter radius. I wonder what it'd be like to have a flail in one hand and have a nail gun in the other?

Honestly, purchasing a gun would be the best option.... but Korean laws make it extremely difficult for people to purchase or own firearms. It can't be helped.

Next time I get to the white room, I should check to see if I can purchase guns with points...

I heard it doesn't cost that much to purchase a gun in the United States.

I should just be satisfied with this for now.

I tossed the Nail Gun into the shopping cart along with about 500 of its nails. It was rather heavy but having the Holy Bag with me made it all better.

I wonder if other people had any luck taking stuff with them into that game. Wait, maybe they haven't even thought that far out yet.

After purchasing what I thought necessary, I left the mart. The

starts already clouded the skies. It was time for me to start getting ready.

It was something that was required of me... if I wanted to survive.

hah, what a fucked up world this is.

It's hard enough making ends meet, but now I have to worry about keeping my ass alive too. Just what kind of bullshit is this.

Wait, is it strange that I'm rather calm about this whole ordeal? I mean... there's a clear difference between me and Hye-Won.

Blah, whatever. It's not like I cared for things like that. I never did, ever since both of my parents passed away long ago.

What's so bad about being different from everyone else?

Fuck. all that matters is I'm happy.

I dump everything into the bag and began heading home. I wonder if I can make it through this round? No, I must make it.

These kinds of thoughts filled my head.

My grandmother was laying in bed sick. Forget the hospital, I

didn't even have money to buy her meds from the local pharmacist. Some people have enough money to throw away, but I didn't have that kind of luxury. There was someone who was shaking in cold, underneath the blankets in a freezing room. Is there even a god? Is there a meaning to our existence?

-Someone's question.

10 bottles of 2 liter water bottles, 20 bottles of 500ml water bottles, a nail gun, 500 nails, and 30kgs of chocolate bars and dried foods.

I put on strong military boots. I threw away the hockey plates.

I placed enough chocolate bars and dried foods into my backpack. The rest were in the Holy bag.

In one hand, I had the flail, and in the other, was a Nail Gun.

I looked at my watch. It was already reaching 2am.

Tick. Tock. Tick. Tock. Tick. Tock.

As soon as the long hand reached "12," I found myself back in the white room again.

yeah, just as I expected.

Chapter 22: Hostility

I looked at my watch. It was already reaching 2am.

Tick. Tock. Tick. Tock. Tick. Tock.

As soon as the long hand reached “12,” I found myself back in the white room again.

yeah, just as I expected.

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

Ability : Lyfedearc Divine Arts LV 2. Absorb LV 1. Iron Body LV. 1. Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Flail Mastery Lv 2. Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Shield Mastery Lv 1. Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Armor Mastery Lv 1. Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Steel Body Skill Lv 1.

Weapon : Flail

Accessory – Necklace : Lyfedearc’s Apprenticeship Warrior Necklace

Accessory – Bracelet : Lyfedearc’s Apprenticeship Warrior Bracelet.

Tool : Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Holy Bag.

Status : Third Test Passed

Point : 1P

Everything I was expecting had was shown before my eyes.

“That’s a bit too long... can’t they shorten that a bit?”

Without realizing, I was mumbling to myself. That’s when it happened.

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

Ability : Lyfedearc Divine Arts LV 2 - Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Flail Mastery Lv 2 - Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Shield Mastery Lv 1 - Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Armor Mastery Lv 1 - Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Steel Body Skill Lv 1.

Weapon : Flail

Accessory – Necklace : Lyfedearc’s Apprenticeship Warrior Necklace

Accessory – Bracelet : Lyfedearc’s Apprenticeship Warrior Bracelet.

Tool : Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Holy Bag.

Status : Third Test Passed

Point : 1P

The Lyfedearc wordings in the front disappeared, and the ‘.’ changed to ‘-‘

Are they trying to be funny or something? It made me laugh a

bit. Why don't they just tell me how to survive this thing instead of doing this mess? well?

“Okay, so what’s my next test?”

Reward Search

Required time: 1 hour.

“What? what’s up with reward search all of a sudden?”

That made my head tilt in curiosity...

They always popped up the Reward Search window in front of me right after battles were complete. Someone was trying to make me spend money all the damn time. Wait, that’s right! I have 1p left.

“Money.”

Reward Search

100,000won – 1p

“Really? Is this for real?”

They really do have money, huh?

“Hmm... should I try to purchase it? Purchase 100,000won.”

When I said the words, something totally unexpected happened.

100,000won has been deposited to player Jung Yoon-Hwan's XX bank account.

“What?”

I couldn't believe what just happened. 100,000won was just deposited where?

“Ha. hahaha. what the fuck...”

This was impossible. I felt like my soul was escaping from my body because of this non-sense.

The window in front of me began to change again.

Fourth Test

Co-op battle – The Labyrinth of Death

1p per every enemy killed

“What?”

A co-op battle? what's that?

This day has been confusing the hell out of me for some reason. Can't someone come out and give me an explanation?

While I was thinking, the light around me dimmed, leaving me completely alone in darkness again.

“Tch. Basic Divine Light.”

I placed my hand on top of my head to use the skill. I could see everything that was around me with the light shining from my hair. Feeling content, I nodded to myself over how well the light was working without the light helmet.

“I should've done this from the beginning!”

It was a dark surrounding. I was still in a stone chamber. A co-op, you say... what the hell am I supposed to with a co-op? They want me to fight together with someone?

“Depositing money into my bank account and letting me take it easy now... just what are they thinking...”

Is there a God like being within this game? There should be one. What the hell is his motive? What is he thinking?

Fuck, I just don't get anything.

I kept looking around me. I was in a stone chamber as before, but it was much bigger than last time.

First, there was only one exit so I moved carefully. The passageway in this chamber was wide enough for 2 people to walk through. Its height was about 3 meters. It was massive.

While I was making my way down the passage, I heard something that made my ears perk.

thud. thud. thud. thud. thud. thud.

Something was walking towards me. It was too fast to be a zombie. It had heavy footsteps. Either way, I couldn't see anything because of the darkness.

Who is it?

Is it a person? or...

Before I could come up with an answer, something came into my light range.

It was a monster that was different from a zombie. There was a hole in its head wearing a worn-out leather helmet. Its body was

rather skinny, holding a shield in one hand, and a sword that appeared to be a meter in length in the other.

“that’s... a skeleton.”

Skeleton.

A common monster that appears in lots of RPG games...

God damn it. I’m just having to face all kinds of monsters now.

“And there’s more than one?”

I could see countless skeletons behind the one that’s before me. I couldn’t get a feel for how many was there.

What the hell is up with them.

Why are there so many? Do I have to break through all of them alone?

“Fuck! What kind of co-op battle is this! This is bullshit, that’s what I say!”

What the hell is going on inside the head of the guy who made this damn game, huh?

Chapter 23: Hostility

“And there’s more than one?”

I could see countless skeletons behind the one that’s before me. I couldn’t get a feel for how many was there.

What the hell is up with them.

Why are there so many? Do I have to break through all of them alone?

“Fuck! What kind of co-op battle is this! This is bullshit, that’s what I say!”

What the hell is going on inside the head of the guy who made this damn game, huh?

hwakk!

A light shined from my body. The Divine Power leaped out from my anger. The power of Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior Steel Body Technique is now active.

Soon, the light turned to smoke and it was absorbed through my nose and ears. All the essence of Divine Power were inhaled into my lungs then spread throughout my body, adding power to my strength.

Tukk.

I threw my Nail Gun over to the side.

Kwang!

Then, I ran towards the front with all my might.

Koong! Koong! Koong! Koong!

I ran forward like a tank smashing everything down that was in front of me with my flail. Great amount of Divine Power was infused within my flail, making it appear that my weapon itself was on fire.

My flail was going through the two Skeleton warriors like tofu.

Kwah! wakh!

I put a snap in my wrist to make the flail spin before I sprung forward to aim at the guys behind the first two. I turned them into dust before they could react to my movements.

Shuook!

That's when it happened.

As I was smashing one of them down, there was another one behind him coming at me with a sword.

“Uahk!”

I barely dodged by twisted my stance and took a step back. His broken allies were coughing up smoke in agony.

The one that tried to stab me was walking my way without any emotions. There were still dozens of Skeleton Warriors left behind them.

Damn. I’ve already used plenty of Divine Power...

“Tch. What to do...”

As I was thinking, he came at me slowly. When he approached me, he made a funny noise that matched his weird appearance.

“Eh? What the hell is with him?”

tchhhhk.

Other Skeleton warriors that were coming at me, had smoke burning from their eye sockets and I heard something burning.

“What? Is that what I think it is?”

I took a step back just in case. I could feel the wall at my fingertips.

“Basic Divine Light.”

Pahht.

A light shined from the wall. When the light around my hand intensified, the smoke that was coming from the Skeleton warriors got stronger as well.

Is this for real?

“Oh~ho. So, the Divine Power isn’t strong enough for you, is that it? Basic Divine Light.”

I tied the flail to my waistband, placed my hands on the wall to activate the Basic Divine Light a few more times. The whole place lit up because of it.

That’s when I realized everything.

hrrrrrr!

A blue light shined from their body. Then, I heard “Kiahhhh.”

Hah. isn't this something.

“The Basic Divine Light can only last for an hour... could I take care of all of them in that time frame?”

This is disappointing. It really is.

“The undead will always be a good source for the Divine Apprentice.”

I took a step back yapping something that didn't make sense. My hands were on the wall again, using the Divine Light. It lit up the entire passage.

Other Skeleton warriors that were at the end of the passage heading my way, fell with smoke coming out from their sockets.

Pieces of bones were rolling around on the ground, and weapons were dropped.

“This is just too easy. Why was I worried about this?”

I began feeling bad for the others. Like Hye-Won for an example.

Few Skeleton warriors didn't walk. They ran towards me like crazy, but before they reached me they all burned up and fell the ground.

Bunch of fools.

“This is why undead will never win. They’re too stupid.”

Although my Divine Light is at a basic level, focusing and directing its strength did a lot of damage to them.

Is this rigged somehow?

I was busy thinking, forgetting that there still Skeleton warriors left. They were coming at me in flocks. Endless flocks, and I couldn’t tell how many more of them was left.

The one who created this place wanted the fighter to lose his energy while fighting all these skeleton. It was completely obvious, but it was just manual labor for me. Something so trivial, yet annoying.

As I was returning to the way I came from, I used the same skill on the wall a few more times. When I returned to the stone chamber, I sat down at its entrance and just watched the Skeletons walking in burn down to the ground.

I watched the Skeleton bones stack up from the ground, and them trying to clear their way through.

But in the end, the light shined through bones that were

dispersed throughout. All this burning made me want to light a cigarette. So, I looked into my pockets, found a pack and took one out to light it.

Clink.

CHuahh.

“whew...”

I had no idea that a single cigarette could taste so good. I lifted the Steel Body Technique as I was taking a break smoking a cigarette.

“Kek. kekekeke.”

Now, won't the guy who made this dungeon be surprised when he sees me? I was laughing hilariously at just the thought of it.

I must've spent about 40 minutes watching these stupid Skeleton warriors fall to their deaths. There's no way they could keep pouring out even after 40 minutes, could they?

There must be at least 300 skeletons that's on the ground. If I had to knock them down one by one... that would've been one hell of an annoying job.

By the way....

I think I'm about done. Should I look into it?

I went out to where all the bones were scattered, and began moving them around. Damn. How could there be so many damn bones?

I wonder if any of their weapons could be of use?

“Let's see....”

I lifted up the weapons and the armors, but they were all corroded.

Chapter 24: Hostility

There must be at least 300 skeletons that's on the ground. If I had to knock them down one by one... that would've been one hell of an annoying job.

By the way....

I think I'm about done. Should I look into it?

I went out to where all the bones were scattered, and began moving them around. Damn. How could there be so many damn bones?

I wonder if any of their weapons could be of use?

“Let's see....”

I lifted up the weapons and the armors, but they were all corroded.

“There's nothing here that I can use.”

Out of disappointment, I got up and began walking through the passage. Could it have been over an hour? I finally got through it. Once I did, I found myself in an underground-like area.

This place was 3 meters high up and it was so wide that I couldn't

even put a number on it.

So, this is where the Skeleton warriors were coming from?

I looked around to get a clear idea of where I was at. All sides were blocked off and I could see a single staircase leading down somewhere.

“Is that...”

Honestly, I didn't have anywhere else to go to but down there.

I activated the Steel Body Technique as I was heading down just in case something pops out at me. But, nothing show up.

When the stairs ended, and a big open exit showed up I could see some kind of strong light shining through.

A light?

When that thought crossed me, I saw an interesting scenery.

The ceiling appears to be about 100 meters high with something at the top making light.

The sides were extremely wide with 4 other beams like the ones from the staircase. That makes 5 including mine.

What is this place? Is this the end?

There was a place with a sword drawn, a bow, a dagger, and one with a staff.

The place I came from had a drawing with a hand and a light.

What is this?

As soon as I asked myself that question, I automatically began thinking of something stupid.

“A warrior, an archer, a thief, a magician, and a priest... aren't these the five classes?”

I knew it was stupid, but it really did look like it. This is... party formation, isn't it?

In RPG games, there are parties that consists of these classes.

A warrior, a magician, and a priest is the perfect example.

There will be parties with a thief or an archer from time to time, but that's the typical formation in a 3 member party.

What do they want me to do about this.

“Wait... by a co-op combat...”

This is what they wanted to tell me. They want us to meet her, and go fight somewhere else together, isn't it? Sigh... they really do know how to annoy people.

Dumbfounded, I was staring off into the sky when I heard something. It was in the area where the staff was drawn.

There, a girl was standing there. She was wearing a biker's suit. A suit that sticks to their body like latex, and she even had protective gear on her. I couldn't see her face because of the helmet she had on either. What I could see was her body. She had some big boobs.

Wow, she's just like Hye-Won...

As I was thinking, the girl was removing her helmet. I wonder who was underneath it? Let's see what her ranking number is...

“What?”

That... that's.

That's Hye-Won!

While I was surprised and searching for words to spit out, Hye-

Won walked towards me. She bowed her head.

What's up with you? Did something happen to you in a day we haven't seen each other?

"Thank you."

"Huh? for what?"

She looked at me when she lifted her head. No expression.

"If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be alive right now. I really want to thank you for what you did."

Ah... so that's what she was talking about. It looks like she took my advice to heart.

"It's fine. What matters is that you're alive. So... what ability did you raise?"

"Increased my magic limit, magic recovery and such. .. Fire magic tend to use my stamina once my magic depletes."

"So, I'm guessing it doesn't bother you now?"

"Nope."

“that’s great to hear. You got here defeating all the Skeleton warriors too?”

“Huh?”

What? is the expression I saw on Hye-Won’s face.

“You didn’t fight Skeleton warriors before you ended up here? I had to face like 300 of them.”

“Nope. I came to a staircase, and once I got down... I was here.”

“What....?”

What the hell is going on? Why did I have to face all those god damn Skeleton warriors?”

“Is this discrimination...”

The guy who created this game... just what in the world does he do? Whatever. It’s not like it matters anymore.

I heard a noise.

It was coming from where the Bow was drawn. Hye-Won was looking in that direction as well. On it, some slender girl appeared.

She had on a white short-sleeved shirt with a black leggings.

That looks comfortable to move around in.

She wore boots without heels, and had a bow in her hands. I could see the long black hair hanging down to her shoulders with cold eyes. Should I say they look like cat-eyes? Her body wasn't up to par with Hye-Won, but she didn't look like a pushover either.

I see.

Hye-Won was the magician, and that girl was the archer. If I'm the priest, then who are the other two?

The warrior and the thief?

A warrior has got to be stronger than me, right? It is a warrior class after all. In that thought, I placed my sight on the archer.

She was aiming it towards me.

“Name?”

“Eh?”

What the hell is she doing?

“Aiming your arrow at someone you’ve just met? What in the world do you think you’re doing?”

I stared at her with a pissed off look. She returned the favor.

“What are you trying to do?”

“I don’t know who you are. I can’t trust you.”

“What the hell is this now?”

“Some random guy tried to rape me in the other round. If it wasn’t for the fire... I wouldn’t be here.”

Fire? wait...

“The mountain fire? the one... where the zombies appeared?”

She nodded.

“I didn’t know there were people in that fire...”

I set that fire in the woods... I guess people could’ve died. A warrior and the thief.

“Name?”

“I am Yoon-Hwan Jung. Her name is Hye-Won Lee. Me and Hye-Won fought together in the woods. Okay, then. What’s your name?”

“Yoon-Ji Han.”

“Alright, Yoon-Ji Han, do you know what our objectives are this time?

“A co-op combat.”

“Then what are we supposed to be doing?”

She kept staring at me without saying anything.

Hrrrk.

4 fireballs appeared near Hye-Won.

Wow, that’s nice.

“That arrow, get it away from that ahjusshi.”

Chapter 25: Hostility

It was surprising to see Hye-Won speak with anger in her voice. And just like that, the girl lowered her bow.

"I'm sorry for aiming my arrow at you. I apologized "

She bent over in a 90 degree angle to bow her head to show her apologetic gesture. Talk about a change in attitude! After she bowed, she straightened her back and looked at Hye-Won and I

"My name is Yoon-Ji Han. As you can see, I use bows"

"Talk about flipping a 180..."

"I told you. I can't trust people. ButI had a feeling that I could trust you judging by how this girl was protecting you."

"That makes me feel much better. Ah.. I can be talk casually with you, right? I'm 25 years old."

"I'm younger than you so do as you please."

"Alright, then... should I start with the details?"

"You know what's going on?"

"I know something."

I shrugged. I pointed at the pillar with writings on them.

"That's the hint. You see the bow from where you exited out of, the shining hand where I exited from, and the staff where she came from?"

"What about it?"

"It's telling us about each ability. You're an archer. She's a magician. I'm a paladin. What you see there is a thief and a warrior. We're supposed to form a team to fight enemies, hence the mission, co-op combat."

"A guess?"

"Yes, but with a high probability"

She looks at the the pillar after having heard what I said. Then, she looked my way and nodded.

"Sounds like you're right but... I think the one who was supposed to be the warrior died by the zombies.

What are we going to do now?"

"What else. We have to wait for the time being. They'll do something about it."

Because that's what they've done all this time.

Then it happened.

"Hey, is this the right way to be going?"

"I don't see any other routes to take."

"Still"

Her voice strained of concerns. It was only logical considering how she saw the warrior get killed. Two people walked out. Two?

From what I could make out, they appeared to be two well-built teenagers who are still in high school. One was thinner than the other, but they both stood tall at 175 cm. One was in school uniform while the other was wearing plain jeans and t shirt.

That's not all.

The thin one had circular shield with a diameter of 60 cm and a sword that was about 70 cm long, yet fairly wide.

On the other hand, the bigger guy had a long sword that was

about 1 meter in length which took both hands to wield.

what, high schoolers are coming along now?

Wait, Hye-Won is also a high schooler so I really can't say anything.

“Uh....”

The thin one stopped after taking a glance at me, Hye-Won, and Yoon-Ji. What the hell is this? was the look he had on his face.

He's not the only one who was confused.

How the hell did two people come out of the warrior pillar?

“uh, there, hello.”

Bowed. The thin one bowed to us, and the other one as well. But none of us acknowledged their greeting.

That's when the big one hung his weapon by his waist and asked a question while scratching his head.

“So....what is this place?”

They don't know what this place is? I was starting to question

them.

“My name is Jung-Yoon Hwan.... what are your names?”

Names should be the first thing that I needed to know.

“Uh... I’m Sung-Hwan Kim. This here is Sung-Jin Park.”

“Sung-Hwan Kim and Sung-Jin Park? How many times did you two go to the white room?”

“That white room?”

“Yes, the white room.”

“Uh...you’re talking about that first place, right?”

I nodded.

As soon as I nodded, the big one frowned as if something was wrong. Thin one did as well.

“I think it’s our first?”

First?”

“A noobie....”

As I was mumbling to myself, Yoon-Ji looked at me in a strange way while she said something to me.

“Don’t you think it’s because of what you did to that forest?”

It wasn’t a nice tone.

“I think that’s the reason for what happened. Including the one who was trying to assault you as well.”

And, I returned fire to her.

“He was a warrior.”

She kept on talking with a small grin on her face. So that’s what it was. He must’ve got killed because of me.

Well, that god for that. At least now I wouldn’t have to worry about going around with a scumbag.

“Good thing he died. Cooperating with a scumbag like that wouldn’t be good for the team.”

“You, were you with some kind of special ops command?”

“No, not at all.”

“You’re rather too calm about this...”

“It’s just how I am.”

I propped up my shoulders as I responded to Yoon-Ji. She smiled towards me.

Hye-Won came to stand beside me.

“Oh my, look how you guys are fighting now. I’m jealous.”

“If you’re jealous, you should do well to earn trust. By the way... you two.”

Two stood there looking like they had no idea what the hell was going on around them.

“You two are fucked.”

“What?”

“Huh?”

They had no idea what I said. I mean, who could? Who could understand when someone says that they’re fucked the first time

they meet them?

“To put things simply... you two just got kidnapped.”

Chapter 26: Hostility

Two stood there looking like they had no idea what the hell was going on around them.

“You two are fucked.”

“What?”

“Huh?”

They had no idea what I said. I mean, who could? Who could understand when someone says that they’re fucked the first time they meet them?

“To put things simply... you two just got kidnapped.”

Their faces turned white from what I just said.

“How....”

“I’m not sure of the details but you’ll be dragged here to fight with those things in your hands every morning at 2. Got it?”

I pointed at their weapons with my finger. They followed with their eyes.

“Wait. Wait a minute. What did you just say? Fight? Who? With this?”

Right when he was asking questions, it happened.

Tttunnngn!

There was a loud noise as the ground began splitting apart. Then, a staircase that lead underground appeared.

“You’re both students, aren’t you?”

“What? Yes.”

“Do you like games?”

They looked like they had no idea what the hell I was talking about.

“In games... there are monsters. What are you going to do if you see one coming at you?”

“Huh? W, wait... do you mean...?”

The thin one began stuttering as he spoke.

“You’ll see them soon enough.”

As I was finishing up, something happened.

Pahhht!

A white wall appeared around us. That stupid white wall I've seen so much. There was something written on it.

Fourth test

Co-op combat – Basement Labyrinth of Death

1P for every enemy killed

entrance time limit – 10 minutes

death upon failed entrance

“They’re pushing us in. Hye-Won, let’s go. Throw your helmet away while you’re at it. It’s going to block your view.”

Hye-Won listened to what I had said, and took off her helmet before tossing it to the side. She came to my side as we walked towards the entrance.

The mysterious Yoon-Ji came close to us.

“I can go with you since it’s co-op, right?”

“Whatever you want.”

“Being a bit too casual, aren’t you?”

“Does it bother you?”

“hehe, can I, oppa?”

“Are you a con artist?”

“How could you ask that?”

“Sorry.”

We headed down the stairs while exchanging some empty words.

I raised my hand to make light since there wasn’t anything around down there.

“Basic Divine Light.”

Light began shining from my head. I also made it so light was coming off my clothes as well.

“Oppa, you’re a holy man, aren’t you?”

“Yup, I’m a paladin.”

“Heh, that’s interesting...”

“There’s going to be lots of interesting things you’ll see happening, so don’t get too excited.”

I turned my head after that.

“Hey, you guys! come on, hurry up. Don’t blame me if you end up dying up there.”

I’m not much of a righteous person, but I also didn’t want their deaths hanging over my head.

I yelled my words before I left them behind.

When it was just Hye-Won, I did everything I could to help her out but.... I could see how difficult it was going to be taking care or watching after those guys. No, it was just like this. I saved Hye-Won somehow, but some random warrior whom I’ve never seen before ended up dying before making it here.

Those two there has to be the replacements for the warrior who died earlier.

But I wonder why there are two warriors? What happened to the thief class?

I kept making my steps as these thoughts lingered.

Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud.

Four people followed after me. Hye-Won was right behind me and Yoon-Ji was right after her. Behind her, was the two high schooler noobies.

We ended up walking down the stairs for a long time. I believe it was around 15 minutes when we approached the exit.

Of course, the exit was full of darkness so we couldn't make out anything. But when I approached, the light coming from my head and clothes made it better.

“This is...”

“Huge...”

Hye-Won commented as he followed behind me. I agreed with what she had said.

We couldn't see anything above us. All we could see was the area around us.

This is bad...

We'd be at a disadvantage if we were to fight here.

I crouched to place my hand on the ground.

“Basic Divine Light.”

Paaht.

Light shined from the ground. I took few steps away and made the same move.

“You can use this on the ground?”

“Yup.”

“hmm. Now... this is interesting. I wonder if I should learn it too.”

“Don't bother. Just keep adding on to what you learned in the beginning.”

“Will that be better?”

“I'm not entirely, but don't you think so?”

I placed my 5th light on the ground, while giving half-assed advice to her.

Thud. Thud. Thud.

Something was walking towards us. I stoop up immediately and tightly gripped my flail.

“it’s the enemy.”

Now that I think about it... I should’ve bought a shield. I was too caught up in buying skills, that I totally forgot about the basics.

Regretting, I placed my hand in my Holy bag in search of what I bought with me.

Nail gun.

This is effective against enemies that’s between 10~20 meters within radius.

Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud.

Same footsteps got louder. Or, should I say there’s a lot more now?

“Everyone to the pathway.”

we began looking all over the area.

“The entrance has disappeared!”

“What are we going to do? Sung-Hwan, what are we going to do?”

“Shut up!”

The sounds coming from the back made me frown. It’s their first time... I guess it can’t be helped.

Damn it.

“Hye-Won and miss Yoon-Ji?”

Chapter 27: Hostility

The sounds coming from the back made me frown. It's their first time... I guess it can't be helped.

Damn it.

“Hye-Won and miss Yoon-Ji?”

“You can just call me by my name.”

“Whatever. I want you to stick to the wall.”

I turned around as quickly as I could. I ran towards the staircase entrance, which became a pillar, to put my hand on its surface.

“Basic Divine Light. Basic Divine Light. Basic Divine Light.”

Hwahhk.

The Divine Power within me began depleting rapidly. I guess using this ten times in a row does reduce the amount of power that's within me.

I know it'll recover on its own, but it'll be some time until it's fully recharged. This was something that I knew very well deep inside.

Damn.

Is this all the Divine Power can do?

“Stick to the wall. And attack everything that comes toward you.”

“Yes, ahjusshi.”

“Okay.”

I turned around after hearing their response. The two high schoolers were still not getting what was going on.

[illegible]

Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud.
Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud.
Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud. Thud.
Thud. Thud. Thud.

The steps got louder and louder. I could see some of the guys who were making the steps from the Divine Light I put up earlier.

Skeleton warriors.

A fuck ton of it at that!

Damn!

Is this the dungeon we're supposed to survive from?

"You guys come here!"

"We, we're..."

"Hurry up!"

"Okay!"

Two of them got closer.

"You. You guard the girl here with the bow, got it? Guard her. There's nowhere to run so just do it. And, you. You guard this girl here, got it? You two will be tankers. You know what tankers are, right?"

"T, tankers? From games?"

“Yes, that’s it.”

Although they were dumbfounded, they nodded as if they understood what I said and walked over to the location I wanted them at.

Hye-Won and Yoon-Ji put their backs against the pillar and stuck right next to each other. I placed the high schoolers just where I need them.

Thud. Thud. Clack. Clack.

“The... skeleton looks...”

“What the fuck is that.”

Fear must be setting in them because they were mumbling as their voices began to crack.

“Snap out of it, you bastards! Do you want to die? If you don’t get your shit together, you’ll end up dying right here!”

I raised my flail after yelling at them. Shahhh. I’m further depleting the Divine Power by using Steel Body Technique on my body.

As I felt the power flow through me, I could see the Skeleton

Warriors walk past the Basic Divine Light I had set up earlier.

I could see smoke coming from their body, but it wasn't doing much against them since the light wasn't concentrated on a single monster like before. They just kept walking towards us.

Damn. If I knew this was going to happen, I would've set the whole damn place with the Divine Light like a damn night club!

Hwahhhk!

That's when it happened. I saw a fireball at the size of my head in front of me. There was about ten of it, and they all began flying in all directions.

Hrrrrrr!

The fireballs don't explode. They just put everything to flame. It spreads the fire on its enemy and burns it to crisp.

kyahhhh!

An unwanted and disturbing screech claws its ways into my ears. It was the sound of the Skeleton Warriors screaming as they fell.

“uwahhk!”

“Ahhk!”

The two high schoolers covered their ears like they could try to stop the noise from going through.

Looking at those two, something came to mind. I turned around and placed my hand on the thin one’s head.

“Basic Blessing.”

Pahht.

A blue-ish light covered his boy. He still had his stupid look on his face like “huh,” as he slowly took his hands off his ears.

“Basic Blessing.”

I did the same for his friend next to him.

“Basic Blessing.”

I guess they were coming back to their senses .

Puk!

I smacked his head as I yelled something.

“Pull your shit together! Do you want to die!”

“Ah, okay!”

“Weapon up! Shield up!”

I turned my body around and began stepping forward towards the enemies. Hordes of Skeleton Warriors with black smoke coming from their corpses were making their way towards us.

I began smashing my way through them with my flail.

Kazaak!

Their bones were breaking left and right.

Kyaahhh.

Another disturbing screech as they fell to the ground with smoke coming out from their mouths. They stop moving.

Yeah, my light might not be all that powerful, but it weakens them enough!

Sheek.

I reduced the amount of Divine Power being consumed inside me. I pushed forward by minimizing the Divine Power output in order to maintain the Steel Body Technique to balance the Divine Power flowing in me through the heart.

Tang! Tang! Tang! Tang! Tang! Tang!

I shot my Nail Gun at them. The nails were infused with Divine Power.

The nails shot right through them; leaving nothing but sparks behind.

It's effective after all!

Even with all the Skeleton Warriors we've defeated so far, it still wasn't enough. We barely cracked through the ice. They were just going to keep on coming.

Damn. There's no point to having a long-distance weapon in a situation like this. Do I need to go jack a bomb somewhere? Or, should I just make one?

I threw the Nail Gun aside. I didn't have time to put it back in the Holy Bag with everything that was going on.

I gripped my flail again.

“Haaap!”

Kwang!

Chapter 28: Hostility

Damn. There's no point to having a long-distance weapon in a situation like this. Do I need to go jack a bomb somewhere? Or, should I just make one?

I threw the Nail Gun aside. I didn't have time to put it back in the Holy Bag with everything that was going on.

I gripped my flail again.

“Haaap!”

Kwang!

Thanks to Basic Divine Light, I was able to run through the fallen Skeleton Warriors. With each swing, 2~3 Skeleton Warriors' heads were getting shattered.

Alright! Since my Divine Power is getting recharged, I'll just keep pushing like this!

Clak. Clak

The Skeleton Warriors surrounded me from all sides. They began making their attacks by trying to stab at me. I know they're slower than me, but I couldn't afford to stand still with 7 swords coming my way.

I swung my flail after I stepped backwards. It knocked 3 of them out.

Pook!

“Kek!”

My waist was burning. When I turned my eyes towards it, I could see a sword sticking out with a Skeleton Warrior at the end of it. Thankfully, it didn't penetrate deep enough to inflict any serious wounds as it just barely pierced my skin.

But it still fucking hurts, you bastard!

Kwang!

I smashed my flail down on his head. The others moved towards me again.

Ping! Ping! Ping!

Then it happened. Something came from behind and passed me to pierce the skull of a Skeleton Warrior's head that was next to me.

It was an arrow.

The Skeleton Warrior that got its head shot immediately fell to the ground like bunch of blocks that got torn down. What would I have done if I didn't have my Basic Divine Light?

I would've died in this god forsaken place!

Hwahhhhk!

It wasn't just the arrow. There were fireballs coming from all directions. It had to belong to Hye-Won.

Although it didn't have any explosive properties, they endlessly burned its targets to crisp.

"Come at me, you fucks!"

I left my waist as it is for the time being. I was worried that I couldn't afford to lose anymore Divine Power while fighting against these monsters.

Kwang! Kwang! Tung!

"Fuck?"

A Skeleton Warrior in front of me had a shield with him. It was a rather thick steel one at that.

“A Divine Blow.”

I began using the skills I’ve learned. This is a technique that realizes the Divine power towards a target, but why is there a big ball of light over my head?

Shweek!

Boom!

The ball of light flew towards the enemy’s head at an incredible speed crushing its skull into dozens of pieces before making him fly back far.

It pierced through 6 Skeleton Warriors before exploding to thin air.

This is quite powerful, isn’t it? It does consume quite a bit of Divine Power, but it sure is worth it.

I slouched in that thought while I let that sink in. Then, I picked up a thick circular shield which was 80cm in diameter.

“Uwahhh!”

I’m charging, you fucks! I’m going after every one of them!

I ran with the shield in my left hand against the Skeleton Warriors that were aiming to stab me with their swords. I mercilessly swung my flail around at them.

Kwang! kwa-kwang!

Few Skeleton Warriors fall to their feet right after another. Near my, other Skeleton Warriors were burning to a crisp from the fire.

Pook! pook!

“Kahk!”

My thigh and my shoulder, swords were piercing through them. Their swords were cutting through my skin, and getting deeper and deeper into my body.

Heek!

I quickly moved my arm to smash down my flail on them, but I could feel my movements slowing down.

Although my body as toughened from the Divine Power, I was using a very limited amount as I needed to ration out the usage in case of an emergency.

I’ve must’ve knocked down dozens of them already. It still wasn’t

looking too good for us.

But do you think I'll die here?

I refuse to.

I refuse to die in this place!

“Ahjusshi! watch out!”

Hye-Won screamed out my name from behind me. I moved like a lightning in reflex to her shout.

Hwahhhk!

A ring of fire, with our backs against the pillar, rapidly expanded as soon as it appeared. The Skeleton Warriors that had been closing in on the fire had fallen like dominos.

“whew...”

I knew what's been going on when I saw Hye-Won focused and sweating. I began to do what I did best again.

I threw my flail back into my Holy Bag and pressed up against the wall.

“Basic Divine Light. Basic Divine Light. Basic Divine Light.”

I continuously casted the Divine Light. In short time, I was able to turn the entire pillar into a major source of light. Using this skill over and over for about 20 times probably depleted my Divine Power.

But the amount of light the pillar was shining was incredible.

“Turn off your fire.”

“Alright.”

She quickly put her fire out then breathed heavily.

Skeleton Warriors were making their advances again, but the light shining from the pillar was so strong that it stopped them from their tracks. Just as before, they began smoking out of their mouths and fell to the ground.

It looks like the light is just too strong for them.

“whew...”

Thank god I’m a Paladin, and I’m glad I decided to use this tactic earlier in the passage because if I hadn’t...

Shrug.

The thought of dying made my spine chill.

“Wow... Oppa, you're amazing. Is this part of your Paladin abilities?”

“Yeah, it is. In games, Paladins are strong against the Undead. I think same rules apply here.”

“The Undead?”

“Have you played games before?”

“I work at a game company.”

Yoon-Ji smiled as she answered. Seeing her smile like at while countless Skeleton Warriors were falling to the ground made me think that she wasn't all that normal herself.

But what's so bad about that? In this situation, it's better to have someone like that instead of those damn high schoolers who are trembling in terror.

“Really?”

But a game company?

“I’m Han Yoon-Ji, the Art Director at Golem Factory.”

“Is that so.”

She looks younger than me but she’s already got a job? Damn. Fuck the school system. Wait, if she’s an Art Director... does that mean it doesn’t matter if she went to college? Should I pick up coding and try to get a job in that line of work?

A technical skill is always better than general studies...

Chapter 29: Hostility

“Really?”

But a game company?

“I’m Han Yoon-Ji, the Art Director at Golem Factory.”

“Is that so.”

She looks younger than me but she’s already got a job? Damn. Fuck the school system. Wait, if she’s an Art Director... does that mean it doesn’t matter if she went to college? Should I pick up coding and try to get a job in that line of work?

A technical skill is always better than general studies...

Now, why the hell am I thinking about getting a job? I can make money from this place since 1P equals 100,000 won.

10P will be worth 1,000,000 won and 100P will be worth 10,000,000 won.

I'm not entirely too sure on what's going to happen from now on, but I know I won't have to worry about money for the time being with the amount coming from this.

Hrrr.

The last Skull Warrior fell. I haven't kept track on the kill count, but I'm sure at least 500 Skeleton Warriors have been killed off. At least that's the estimate I'm getting from the piles of bones that's scattered throughout the place.

Around me, there really isn't anything useful on the ground. But, I'm enjoying the shield that I picked up earlier.

As for the Flail, it's been in my hand for quite a while but I needed something that was better to use. So, I began looking.

I found something.

It was a mace. A weapon that was roughly 1 meter in length with a solid metal head at the end, which was meant to swing at full force.

Flail alone has a lot of power, but it needs momentum to inflict heavy damages. And, I can't use it to block with the chains dangling.

Alright, I'll use this from now on.

It's not going to rust, and it looked really sturdy. There were swords laid out on the ground as well....but, I didn't take a liking to it as much since the skills I acquired was "Blunt Weapon" mastery. So, technically, there was no point to picking up a sword.

I turned around to find the high schooler.

He was sorting through the piles of bones searching for something. Probably a shield.

Yeah, a shield is what's going to save your life. Good thinking, kid.

"Hye-Won, are you alright?"

"Yes."

Even though she was still sweating, she didn't look like she was struggling to catch a breath like she did before.

Just in case, I walked over to her and placed my hand on her head. I used my skill.

"Basic Recovery."

Pahht.

Immediately, she began looking better. She also looked surprised.

"This Divine Power allows me to speed up stamina recovery."

"Thank you."

"No problem."

After our brief conversation, I moved my hand onto the wounds on my body.

"Eh?"

I had wounds, but there was no blood on it. I thought it was strange how there was no pain earlier... did my wounds heal in that short amount of time?

Hmm... using Steel Body Technique on top of Basic Divine Body must've increased my recovery rate as well...

"Something wrong?"

"No, it's nothing."

I looked around my surroundings a bit more when a thought hit me. Just how much was...metal costs? I wonder how much I could make if I took all this stuff here and melted it down.

I began picking up whatever I could into my Holy Bag. I still had 60kg limit left over so it wasn't a problem.

"Wow, what is that thing?"

Yoon-Ji approached me.

"A special item just for Paladins. I can stuff a lot of items in this thing."

"So, it's like an inventory stash. Can you buy that with points?"

"You could... but it's only for Paladins."

"Then, I should look for something that's similar. What's it called?"

"Holy Bag."

"Thank you."

"No need to be thankful."

While we were talking, we heard a crackling noise across the area.

Another staircase appeared.

"They want us to head down... shall we go?"

"Of course."

"Sure."

"Yoon-Ji and Hye-Won answered immediately, and I took lead." I hope there won't be more guys this time in this level...

The two high schoolers followed behind us quietly.

"Basic Divine Light."

Pahht.

Again, I used the Divine Light on different parts of my body to produce as much light as possible. But, it was also to weaken any undead that might come near us.

"Can you do that to me too?"

Yoon-Ji poked her head past my shoulders, right next to my cheek. She had a long neck.

I could smell something nice from her. I couldn't tell if it was coming from her hair or just her. Either way, I didn't act on it.

This girl.

She knows how to handle men.

"Alright."

I turned my body around and placed my hand on her hair.

"Basic Divine Power."

Her hair began shining."

"Wow."

Amazed, I took my hand to her shoulder and used it again.

"Basic Divine Power."

Her body began emitting light as well. I even used it on her bow.

When I turned to look at Hye-Won, she was glaring at me.

"You too, Hye-Won."

Without saying a word, she lowered herself in front of me. I used my power on her hair and her clothes.

As for the two high schoolers in the back, I couldn't do anything about them since they were so far away. I'll get to them later, because ensuring those two survive and get home safely will make me sleep a lot easier at night.

But I wonder?

If I didn't choose to acquire this Basic Divine Light, what would've happened? Or, If I didn't make all those points earlier, what would've happened?

We would've been in trouble, that's for sure. No, we all would've died. That's all. This fucking game is dangerous.

There was no point to being happy about getting strong.

To survive, we must stay focused and on our toes.

Thud. Thud. Thud.

We didn't say a single word while we continued to head down the stairs. Once got to the bottom, I could see a wide passage.

Chapter 30: Hostility

We would've been in trouble, that's for sure. No, we all would've died. That's all. This fucking game is dangerous.

There was no point to being happy about getting strong.

To survive, we must stay focused and on our toes.

Thud. Thud. Thud.

We didn't say a single word while we continued to head down the stairs. Once got to the bottom, I could see a wide passage.

It was roughly 5 meters high and 5 meters wide like a long rectangle shaped passage. It was right before us, and lucky for us that it wasn't as dark as the other one.

It was probably due to the blue-ish light on the ceiling that was making things less dark for us. Maybe like a night-light?

Thanks to it, we could make out what was in front of us. And, the Divine Light I casted on myself and the two other girls were making it even better for our sight.

So, they want us to pass through this place.

"Yo, you guys there. Come over here."

The two high schoolers listened and slowly made their way over. I should be thankful that they even listen to me. I mean, just imagine how difficult it would've been if some stupid thug came here.

"Kim Sung-Hwan and Park Sung-Jin, right?"

"Yes."

"Yes."

"You two seen what happened up there. The Skeleton Warriors are weak against light. So, I'm going to cast my Divine Light on you. Are you against it or have any questions?"

"No... but.. do you know where we are?"

"No, I don't."

Kim Sung-Hwan, the one who asked the question sighed at my response.

"For you two, it's your first day here but it's fourth day for me. I'll explain the details... at 2am every morning, you guys will be dragged to this place to fight against monsters like that."

"Can we die here?"

"You probably can, but I'm not sure what happens if you do die here. If you're that curious, you can try dying."

Two high schoolers started trembling in fear. How the hell did I end up with two of the wimpiest guys as tanks? Tsk Tsk Tsk.

"Anyways, don't move."

I began casting Divine Light on their head, clothes, weapon, and shield.

There's only half of Divine Power left in me. I can feel that it'd take roughly about 30 minutes for it to fully recover.

"Hyung... have you fought like this four times already?"

Being called hyung is better than an ahjusshi.

"Yeah. Don't act a fool in here or you could end up dying."

"But, I've never even fought before... even in a game like this..."

The thin one was about to cry. I could see his eyes tearing up. His big friend was tapping him, but he, too, looked like he was going to end up crying.

This is just great. Or, am I the weird one here? Man, I don't know what's going on anymore.

"Pull yourselves together, you morons. Do you want to die?"

"N, No!"

"I don't want to!"

"Since you two only have weapons right now, follow me alright? Don't try to do anything stupid. Just follow me. Let's go."

They wiped their teary eyes. When I turned around and began to lead, they followed. And what's this? Why is Yoon-Ji sticking so close to me?

"That was very nice of you. Taking care of the kids and all."

"I don't want to lose sleep over some kids dying on my watch."

"Hehehe. and, someone like that set fires that big?"

It's not like I set it ablaze to kill anyone. Who would've thought that Yoon-Ji would be in the forest at the time of the fire? Talk about feeling guilty all of a sudden.

Thud. Thud.

Hye-Won stuck to my right side as I continued waling. I have no idea what she purchased and how she has changed since last I saw her.

And so, we just kept on walking.

Clak.

Yoon-Ji's foot got bigger when it made a noise.

"Uh, this is..."

paht paht paht paht paht!

shewwwwww!

Arrows. I thought everything was in slow motion when arrows were flying out of the walls in Yoon-Ji's direction.

I quickly pushed Yoon-Ji back. I didn't even realize how fast my reaction was, but I didn't have any time to think about it.

An arrow hit my arm. I had few more fly into my stomach.

"Kek."

It hurts like a bitch!

"Damn... at least they're not that deep in..."

I wonder if it's because of the Steel Body Technique. The arrow heads had already pierced through my skin, but it hadn't gone in any deeper. I think it's caught between my skin and muscle?

Tap. Tap.

When I touched the arrows, they all fell to the ground. They fell so easily. Probably because they weren't deep in.

5 arrows flew my way and ended up wounding me. Talk about inflicting injuries. Not even the swords Skeleton Warriors were carrying around did this much.

This... has to be because of the Steel Body Technique. And... the effect of the Divine body. Tch. But, I can't afford to consume anymore Divine Power in a place like this. I'll just have to endure it. I mean, my natural recovery rate is fast enough so... my bleeding should stop on its own soon.

"A, are you alright? arrows just..."

"Don't worry about me. I may look weak, but my skin is actually pretty tough like leather."

Yoon-Ji looked surprised. She put her backpack down and looked for something inside.

"I'm fine."

"B, but..."

"Look at this."

I showed her the wound on my arm. Her eyes were getting bigger and bigger as she looked at my arm. She was definitely surprised.

Well, I would be too if I didn't know about my wound healing so fast.

"H, How."

"Because I acquired a skill that's related to this. So, don't worry about me."

Although it takes couple of hours for my wounds to fully heal, the bleeding would stop and scabs would form on top of it within a matter of minutes.

"Have you forgotten that I'm a Paladin? I have other skills that heal besides this."

Chapter 31: Hostility

Look at this."

I showed her the wound on my arm. Her eyes were getting bigger and bigger as she looked at my arm. She was definitely surprised.

Well, I would be too if I didn't know about my wound healing so fast.

"H, How."

"Because I acquired a skill that's related to this. So, don't worry about me."

Although it takes couple of hours for my wounds to fully heal, the bleeding would stop and scabs would form on top of it within a matter of minutes.

"Have you forgotten that I'm a Paladin? I have other skills that heal besides this."

All the tiresome that was stowed away inside me had washed off like sand from water. Even the pain and sore muscle aches disappeared, leaving way for rejuvenation.

Hah. This...should be called the God's miracle.

Before I sat back up, I checked the remaining amount of my Divine Power.

I had only used the Divine Light on my head and pants while passing through the pathway. Thanks to that, about 85% had recovered.

With this much... I shouldn't be worried about anything.

But...let me rest a bit more. My body is no longer tired thanks to the Divine Power, but my mind was another story.

"I'm going to get a quick shut-eye."

"Alright, get some rest...."

While I was closing my eyes, I heard a loud sound. Like a thunder roaring through the halls.

I quickly opened my eyes to see Yoon-Ji's red, embarrassed face.

Haha.

It's only right that she'd be hungry, especially, after all that we've been through. I mean, we've been in here for quiet a while.

"It's right around that time to eat."

Okay, I got myself back up to dig through my bag. I packed it enough lots of food before leaving my house. Unfortunately, I didn't have any hot stew to dig into. All I had was dried-foods which was easy to carry on a journey like this.

Jerky, chocolate bars, energy bars, and etc.

When I started taking bites out of my food, the others went through their bags for food and did the same. As we were chewing, I could see the other two high schoolers looking at us in hunger. I forgot that today was their first day here.

I pulled some stuff out of my bag and handed it over to them.

"Eat. You'll need it to fight."

"T, thank you."

They began eating.

I looked at them for a minute, then turned my head over to Yoon-Ji. I could see that she was eating corn from a can with a spoon. To her side, Hye-Won was eating a sausage sandwich.

It appears they had nothing on their minds as they were eating their food.

"Why are you looking at us like that?"

"Like what?"

"Like you were pitying us with the way we eat."

"Bingo."

Yoon-Ji's eyes began to glare.

"What was that?"

"I'm just joking. By the way, how did you bring all that such a small bag there?"

"What? this thing?"

Yoon-Ji asked. Hye-Won just kept looking at me. Sigh, these young ass kids.

"Hey, how much longer do you think we'll be stuck here?"

"What? How am I supposed to know..."

"You don't. What if you were stuck here for a month?"

Yoon-Ji's face turned white from what I had just said. She still looked sexy with that look on her face, but this wasn't the time for all that.

"You should've brought something that you could keep with you without having to worry about spoiling. That goes for you too, Hye-Won. Everything you guys brought with you will go bad within 4 days."

"Ah...."

Hye-Won began staring at the sandwich she was eating. Her pretty eyes were going empty.

"Now do you understand? We even have those two over there. They didn't even bring anything since they're noobs. If we happened to get stuck here for a month, we'd end up die of starvation before we even beat this place."

"Do you really think we'd be here for a month? We've only done this four times, you know."

"I don't know, but you've seen how difficult it's gotten all of a sudden."

Yoon-Ji just stared at her can of corn.

"How many days can you get from that?"

"at the most... three days."

Chapter 32: Hostility

“Now do you understand? We even have those two over there. They didn't even bring anything since they're noobs. If we happened to get stuck here for a month, we'd end up die of starvation before we even beat this place.”

"Do you really think we'd be here for a month? We've only done this four times, you know."

"I don't know, but you've seen how difficult it's gotten all of a sudden."

Yoon-Ji just stared at her can of corn.

"How many days can you get from that?"

"at the most... three days."

“And what about water?”

“I have.. Enough...”

“Great.”

I really thought I was going to lose my mind over what was happening.

“I guess it really can’t be helped this time around...but be sure to bring enough next time, got it?”

“Alright, I will...”

Nodded.

While Yoon-Ji and Hye-Won answered, the two high schoolers next to me looked terrified.

I tossed them something to eat.

“Eat.”

“T, thank you.”

“Thank you so much.”

They happily ate what I gave them. With everything we have... between the five of us... it still won’t last us a week...

Tch, it would help if there was somewhere to get some water. Even if it was dirty...I could use my Purification skill on it to detoxify its contents.

And, just like that, we rested. Unfortunately, not a single person

looked alright. That included me as well.

Thud. Thud. Thud.

After eating, I treated everyone with Basic Recovery magic to help them heal their stamina.

I stood up thinking how laying around wouldn't help the situation.

We began slowly heading towards the inner pathway. I took lead through the passage where it was only wide enough to fit two people next to each other. I kept advancing with a shield in one hand and a mace in the other.

The light shining from my body pierces through the darkness.

Soon, we made it to a room after reaching the end of the pathway. The room must've been around 3,000 sq. ft. in area and there seemed to be something standing at the end of it.

It had on a very old, rusty armor which looked like it was made of iron. It was a single-piece armor that covered the chest, shoulders, and even the arms. Although it appeared to be very old and rusty, it still seemed very sturdy.

I know what that is.

It's a full-plate armor. It was an armor that covered its wearer with barely any open spots. Only downside to these armors is that they're not very mobile.

Moving around like in the action movies is something that's almost impossible with a full-plate armor on.

Come to think of it, I sure do know a lot of useless information....maybe it's from playing too many games.

The armor was worn by someone or something that had their face covered with only the eyes cut out. I could see two crimson colored eyes glowing within the cut outs.

An undead.

Are you telling me that the knight looking figure there is another corpse? A single knight at that....

That's terrifying... even a novice can tell that's a boss right there.

God damn it.

I could tell that he'd be hell of a lot stronger than the ghoul without even having to fight him. But strangely, he didn't seem bothered by our presence. At least not yet. I should be thankful,

because it would've been a serious problem if he charged at us the moment he saw us.

He just stood there like they would in the movies with his large sword resting vertically from the ground up with both of his hands on its handle. His armor alone looked intimidating, but his sword was another game. It was abnormally big. The blade's width itself could be 10cm in diameter. As for the length... I couldn't tell. Why? Because it's jammed in the ground.

“Hyung... that thing there...”

“It's probably a boss.”

The thin one named Kim Sung-Hwan came walking as he asked, and I nodded in response. That thing there... was a boss.

This time around, I was in a better situation compared to when I was in the forest... For starters, there's 5 of us. Even if the two high schoolers can't help out as much, I have Hye-Won and Yoon-Ji to support me. They ought to prove themselves as very formidable allies.

I'm not entirely sure what Yoon-Ji is capable of, but since Hye-Won can cast fire magic.... We should come up with a strategy.

“You two.”

“Yes?”

The two high schoolers looked.

“You’ve played games before, right?”

“Yeah...kind of.”

“Same for me....”

“Then, you should know what raid means.”

“Of course, but why...?”

That’s it for these two. I turned to look at Hye-Won and Yoon-Ji.

“Yoon-Ji, you should know what raid is, but what about you, Hye-Won?”

Hye-Won shook her head with a blank look in response to my question. She had no idea what I was talking about. Looks like I need to explain it a little.

“It’s a game term. It’s what people call when going against a guy like him. Simple, huh?”

She nodded. As always, she nodded in silence.

“During raids, everyone has their own little parts. What I’ve done up to this point was a Tanker. A Tanker’s purpose is to block all melee attacks from the enemy. Nothing else. As for you and Yoon-Ji, you two will be Dealers. Dealers have to keep attacking the enemy until they die. The key thing is here that you have to make sure that a Tanker, me, don’t get caught in the crossfire, and that’s not the only thing. There could be a chance that he’d come after you as well, so be weary of that. Okay?”

“Do we.... Really have to defeat that thing?”

High schooler named Park Sung-Jin came talking. By the time I turned to face him, he had this stupid look to him.

“There is a pathway behind him. We should just go around...”

“I want to do that as well, but what are you going to if there’s a trap? Not to mention that thing can make sudden movements.”

Chapter 33: Hostility

“I want to do that as well, but what are you going to if there’s a trap? Not to mention that thing can make sudden movements.”

“You really think so?”

“You don’t?”

Unless the guy who made this dungeon is a complete idiot, that guy is going to move. I mean, why wouldn’t he?

“There’s no strategy to this. I’m just going to take lead and beat the hell out of it while Hye-Won and Yoon-Ji attack from afar. You two just stay here, understand? Don’t do anything stupid and end up dying.”

The high schoolers looked down and nodded in disappointment.

“Should we start attacking right now?” I turned my head over to Yoon-Ji when she asked.

“Let’s prep first.”

We began getting ready near the entrance we came out of.

“Basic Divine Light.”

Pahht. I must've used the Divine Light about 20 times near the entrance on the ground and on the walls. It was really bright. Any undead that'd dare to come near would get affected by the light.

After that... I should have about 60% of Divine Power left... it should be... enough.

“Let's get going... Yoon-Ji and Hye-Won, you two make the initial attack.”

“Okay.”

“Sure.”

The two girls got into their stance. Hye-Won had put both of her hands up in the air with her eyes closed. It looked like she was concentrating on something. Then, a fireball appeared above her head, burning like wildfire only to shrink in size.

Did she... reduce it on purpose? I thought to myself while looking at her and the fireball.

In that moment, Yoon-Ji brought out her bow and nocked an arrow with a golden light coming from its tip.

“Attack him.”

Shwekkkkkk!

The small fireball and the arrow with a golden light made its way over to him. At that moment, I I picked up my shield and focused all the Divine Power in me to circulate throughout my body.

Shhhhhhh!

Steam started coming off my body. I could feel strength within every fiber of my muscle.

Kwanng!

The fire exploded in the very spot where the knight with his rusted armor were standing. As soon as I heard that noise, my body began reacting swiftly without thinking because I already knew how to walk, how to run, and how to act.

I launched forward like a rhino going full speed at its target. This was the power of the Steel Body Technique.

That's when it happened.

Hwaahk!

Through the fire and smoke, walked out a human figure.

God damn he's huge.

It wasn't the time to be in awe, but all of us couldn't help but notice the massive size of what was walking towards us. The undead knight was roughly about 2 meters in height and the sword in his hand looked to be roughly 1.8 meters in length.

That is what you call a long sword. But, to be honest, I'm not even sure if you can call something that big a sword.

Fuck, can I even block that thing with my word?

Kwang! Kwang! Kwang!

He quickly made his way towards me. I'm not sure if it's because of the damages his armor sustained from our attacks, but parts of it was breaking off as he was coming at me.

A normal person would be on the ground rolling from the pain, throwing up blood, but I don't think it matters to him since he's an undead after all.

Damn it! A killing machine that doesn't feel pain! Should I at least be thankful that I'm a paladin? And, how the hell is he moving so fast with such heavy and bulky armor on? Is he using something like my Steel Body Technique?

I had all sorts of thoughts running through my mind when he was getting closer and closer.

He's coming.

He grabbed his sword with two hands and swinging from the left. I couldn't believe how big the range of his swing was, not to mention the power that came from it.

I may be using the Steel Body Technique, but I don't think I can take a direct hit from him and survive.

Although all these useless thoughts were flooding in, my body moved and acted without a single delay.

Shhk.

I stuck out my arm with the shield. I focused the Divine Power in my arm, shoulder, back, and the shield.

Kwaaaaang!

“Uwahk!”

The shield broke instantly as soon as it made impact with the sword. Fucking shit! How the hell can a shield shatter like that and leave my arm broken?

This fucking guy!

Even through the pain, I pushed forward. I might die today, but I'm taking you with me!

Kwanng!

I struck down my mace with full force on his head. His helm dented in from my reinforced muscle. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to kill him. He's already dead, an undead. He feels no fear nor pain.

I shouted something at him.

“Divine Attack!”

Kwang!

A light shine from his head and made its way into the helm. Krraang! The helm broke off, showing a half cracked skull behind.

His skull had been split into two and black smoke was rising from it.

As I was taking the time to analyze his damages, I could see him making another attack at me with his long sword.

“Heup!”

Shwekkk!

I twisted my back in order to dodge his sword. My head was full of adrenaline.

The undead knight wasn't just attacking.

Puk!

“Kek!?”

I heard something break. When I looked at the source of the sound, I could see his foot lunged into my side.

The pain was shooting through my veins throughout my body. I couldn't stop trembling from the excruciating pain.

That's when it happened, he suddenly turned and quickly moved to the side.

No!

“Dodge it!”

Kek! I can't move any faster with this injury! As I was limping, trying to hold onto my side, he was moving at an incredible speed

towards Yoon-Ji with his sword taking aim.

“Basic Heal. Basic Heal.”

I began using healing skills as I was trying to run towards Yoon-Ji. It did heal, but as I was making progress, so was he.

Damn! He’s already there..

Chapter 34: Hostility

I began using healing skills as I was trying to run towards Yoon-Ji. It did heal, but as I was making progress, so was he.

Damn! He's already there..

Boooong!

Kwang!

“Uwahhk!”

When the Long Sword bounced off, and Yoon-Ji made actions telling me to run away... there was someone large like Sung-Jin standing between us.

It all happened instantly. Sung-Jin managed to block his Long Sword with the shield, but he didn't have his arm broken, it was completely cut off and ended up having the sword imbedded in his arm.

Blood was everywhere. So was the screaming.

I clenched down on my teeth as I saw his arm get sliced off.

God damn it!

Fucking shit!

“Sung-Jin! God damn it! Ahhh!”

I could see Sung-Hwan screaming while running towards him. Between me and the Undead Knight, there was only about 10 steps.

I used Basic Heal on his body.

Hwahhhk!

That’s when it happened. I could see sparks coming from his shattered skull. It was Hye-Won who created the fire.

The Undead Knight grabbed his head and made a screeching sound.

-KEEYAHHHHH!

How could I explain that sound? It was something that sent chills down my spine. Something that I never wish to hear again.

As that screech spread out the room, Sung-Hwan took few steps back in fear. But, I ran forward because I knew that the best time to attack is when the enemy is distraught.

The pain in my ribs have almost faded and the my arm is completely head.

“Die!”

I struck down my mace on his head in full force while holding it with two hands. It lit up like a star and fell down like a meteorite on his head.

Boom!

His skull splits in one hit and blue sparks were igniting between the cracks. Hrrrrh!

He begins fidgeting from the fire burning its way through him.

Kwang!

I kicked his waist to push him down the the ground, so I could keep smashing his head in with my mace.

Kwang! Kwang! Kwang!

Kwazik!

His skull was completely smashed. There were debris flying around the air while the fire kept burning, eating away at him.

The Undead Knight stopped moving.

Is he finished?

Sigh.

I let out a big sigh and looked to my side. I could see Sung-Jin staring at his recently sliced off arm in horror and despair.

“Euhkk....”

He couldn't scream. He was just grunting very softly.

I took his arm back to him. Judging by how clean it was cut, it should be more than possible to put it back on it... but like I know anything.

Why don't I try sticking it on him. I'll just have to pray for the best and see what happens. So, I placed his arm back to its original place and thought to myself.

“Eugh....”

I stuck my hand out as I heard his soft grunt.

Divine Power.

The miracle I can make through the borrowed Power from God.

“Basic Heal.”

Pahht.

A light appeared, and in that split moment his arm stuck back to his body like it's never been cut off.

It's working! but...I need to make sure that it's completely on.

The skill itself was called “Basic.” I was still far from having it like it was before. There could even be some side effects to this.

“Basic Heal.”

Lights flashed.

I used the Basic Heal skill about 5 times. Although the wounds on his shoulder had healed completely, his face was still pale as snow.

“Basic Recovery.”

Pahhht.

His face was returning back to morrow. His wounds are healed and his stamina recovered, but my Divine Power was almost depleted.

I could feel fatigue creeping up on me by the second. I let a sigh from the unbeatable feeling of being tired even though I couldn't be happier that I had saved him.

“You alright?”

“I am. T, thank you.”

He's still in shock from everything that's happened. Who could blame him?

“You did good. It's only right that a man protects a woman. Yoon-Ji, aren't you going to thank him?”

“Of course, I am. You're Sung-Jin, right? Thank you so much.”

Yoon-Ji came over to where we were. She sat down right next to us, and I caught Sung-Jin staring at her cleavage with his teenage eyes.

This fool...he almost lost his life just now and he's already thinking about something else.

I got myself back up and looked around for the Undead Knight.

Most of his head had been crushed in, but his neck still had few sparks still flaming.

Whew... so, we got him...

“Everyone okay?”

“Yes, I’m good.”

Yoon-Ji answered. I turned my head to look at Hye-Won. She nodded in response. I moved onto Sung-Jin. He was fine as well.

“Hey, try squeezing your hand.”

“Huh? Ah... okay.”

I was moving his recently attached arm around a few times. He smiled.

“It’s a bit sore, but I think it’s okay.”

“That’s good to hear because I don’t think we’re finished...”

“Kuk!”

I heard someone force out a pocket of air out of their lungs. When I turned my head to see what happened, I saw something

horrible and unimaginable.

The high schooler named Kim Sung-Hwan, had a sword sticking out of his chest. He had been stabbed from the back and it came out through the front.

“Ueh....ah...”

Behind him, I could see the faceless Undead Knight getting back up slowly.

The sword was pulled out of Sung-Hwan’s body. There was blood gushing everywhere.

Yoon-Ji, Hye-Won, Sung-Jin, and I...all we could do was stare in shock.

He’s dead.

Someone just died.

“That motherfucker...”

I clenched my jaw in anger. I was so angry I could feel all the blood in my body rushing to my head. Without thinking twice, my body was already launched forward.

There's nowhere to run to now. Unless we defeat this guy, we can't go home. We can't make it out of here alive until he's dead. We need to kill him before he kills us. We need to remove his armor and smash his bones to pieces.

“Uwahhhh!”

Kwang!

I struck his arm with my Divine Power infused mace.

Chapter 35: Hostility

My mace collides with his sword. I could feel the vibrations throughout my arm.

Even though I struck him as hard as I could with my mace, the Undead Knight seemed perfectly fine.

Kek. The difference in power is too great.

Hwak!

The Undead Knight struck his Long Sword down to the ground. I quickly took a step back in order to dodge his attack.

As I took 3 steps back in order to regain my stance, the Undead Knight is raising up his Long Sword again with one arm.

Don't tell me you could use that sword with just one arm!

Kek! Damn it!

Kwang!

I barely dodged the sword by moving to the side. His sword struck the ground and dug itself in from the force, sending out a large shockwave.

“Heup!”

I gripped my mace tighter and aimed for his arm again. I wanted to hit him where his joints were since it's almost impossible to break through his tough armor. Not to mention, going toe-to-toe with this guy in bare strength. So, the best thing for me to do right now is to limit his movements by crushing his joints.

Kwang!

A loud noise was let out when my mace made impact. His arm seems to be slightly twisted from the attack. Parts of the metal surrounding his joint shatters and falls off to the ground, and when I had picked up my mace again....he grabbed his sword and swung at me.

“Kek!”

I barely dodged it. I wonder if it's because I'm underestimating him?

Hwahhk!

A fireball came out of nowhere and exploded on his body.

Kwerng!

The explosion wasn't big, but it was enough to push him back a few steps. Soon after, brightly lit arrows were flying towards him.

The arrows weren't strong enough to inflict hard damage, but we were making progress. He was getting pushed back.

Looking at how things were turning around, I ran towards him in full force.

We need to kill him, but how?

Kwang! Kwang!

First, I attacked the same joint that I hit earlier. The joint was completely smashed in, and through the broken skin, a black smoke was making its way past the bones.

Smoke. Smoke. Smoke!

Yeah, there's smoke. That smoke is what makes that Knight move!

If that's the case...

Shweekkkkk!

The Long Sword was making its way towards me. From up to

down, it was trying to make contact with my shoulder. But, I refuse to back down.

You bastard! Today is the day ou die!

Kwang!

I placed my mace on my shoulder and ran straight towards him. Before his sword could touch me, it caught my mace first which drove it into my shoulder with its sheer weight and force.

“Kuwahhhhk!”

I screamed while getting closer to him as much as possible. Then, I released my mace from my hands, and reached for his head where the fire was still lit inside.

Hah!

I got my hand inside. I touched his ribs just under where his neck bone is, and I grabbed onto it as if my life depended on it. With the other hand, I grabbed onto the joint which had broken earlier.

“Take this!”

Hwakkk!

I unloaded all of my remaining Divine Power onto him.

Kywahhhhhhh!

My head begins to ring from his screeching. Not just me, everyone around me grabbed their head and fell to the ground in pain.

I couldn't bear holding on, but I had to. I had no other choice, but to even if all my strength was gone...

Wait, I have one more skill left...

“Life absorb!”

I don't know if you have any life in you, but I'll take whatever you got!

Hwaak!

I could feel cold energy coming in from the hand where I had grabbed onto his arm joint. As for the hand that grabbed onto his rib, it was dissipating his black smoke from within his body.

Kyahhhhh!

Screeching continued. His hand is reaching out for me.

Puuk!

He got my jaw. For a brief moment, I almost lost consciousness from the pain.

Did you think I'd fall off just from that!?

Kadekek!

I tore off his spinal piece and reached even deeper.

The Undead Knight slowly stops trying to grab at me. He, then, stops as if he had powered down and falls to the ground.

But, I didn't stop there. I went over to pick up his Long Sword.

“Kehk.”

I couldn't shake the excruciating pain in my shoulder. I placed my hand on my shoulder.

“Basic Heal.”

Pahht.

“Basic Heal.”

Pahht.

“Basic Heal.”

Pahhht!

The wound had almost healed completely after I had used heal about six times. I was still feeling sore, but it was bearable.

I went on to pick up his Long Sword. It weighed a ton. It felt as if it weighed about 15kg. I picked it up with what strength I had left in me to strike it down on his shoulder.

Kwazeeek!

His shoulder breaks in one hit.

I picked up the sword again to aim for his other shoulder. Then, I went for his legs.

Kwazeek!

The Long Sword went through his body like it was nothing.

After I had finished, I turned to look at Hye-Won.

Hye-Won, Yoon-Ji, and Sung-Hwan just looked at me like a deer staring at headlights from an oncoming vehicle.

“Hye-Won, set him on fire.”

Nods.

She lends me her hand after nodding. Soon, the pieces of the Undead Knight was lit on fire.

Hwrrrrr!

I stared at the burning pieces of him for a little bit before heading over to one of the high schoolers.

“God damn it.”

I couldn't stop blaming myself for this kid dying on me. He still had his eyes open. What the hell is all this? Just why do we have to get dragged to this place and die like this?

Who the fuck made this game!

“Is...he dead?”

“Yeah, he's dead.”

“No....”

Sung-Jin approaches slowly and grabbed onto Sung-Hwan.

“Sung...Sung-Hwan, wake up you stupid!”

Chapter 36: Hostility

Sung-Jin approached slowly and grabbed onto Sung-Hwan.

“Sung...Sung-Hwan, wake up you stupid!”

He begins crying denying the fact that his best friend had died right in front of him.

Yoon-Ji and Hye-Won didn't look so well either. That's when something happened.

Ppappappak.

The wall began changing to white far away. 4th round had finally finished.

I turned to look at Hye-Won.

“Send me a message at 010-xxxx-xxxx! Got it? It's 010-xxxx-xxxx!”

Hye-Won nodded in response. Soon after, we were all swallowed by the light, and I was the only one left in the white room.

“Sigh...”

This is exhausting. It's just too much. Being tired beyond belief is

one thing, but I was just too worn out mentally.

Player : Yoon-Hwan Jung

Ability : Lyfedearc Divine Arts LV 2 - Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Flail Mastery Lv 2 - Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Shield Mastery Lv 1 - Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Armor Mastery Lv 1 - Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Steel Body Skill Lv 1.

Weapon : Flail

Accessory – Necklace : Lyfedearc's Apprenticeship Warrior Necklace

Accessory – Bracelet : Lyfedearc's Apprenticeship Warrior Bracelet.

Tool : Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Holy Bag.

Status : Fourth Test Passed

Point : 824P

These were the texts that appeared on the wall. Automatically, I noticed that something was off. There were too few points...especially, compared to the Third Test.

“Don't tell me I was able to earn a lot of points by cheating in during the Third Test...” That is a possibility. I couldn't exclude that out. I mean, how else would I have been able to stack up so many points? And, it was my fault that the Thief and the Warrior died.

Wait, the Warrior died from getting torn to bits by zombies... so I can't say that's my fault.

Just now.

I was thinking back to when I was fighting the Undead Knight. He was incredibly fast and unbelievably strong. His armor didn't make it any easier for us to do any damage either.

How could we win against something like that again? What are we going to do when monsters that are even stronger starts appearing?

Reward Search

1 hour limited time

A text appeared. Yeah... if I want to survive, racking up on defenses are going to be the difference between life and death. I'm also going to need my DIvine Power to recover faster on top of having a tougher body.

“Purchase Body Reinforcement.”

Pahhht.

Light swallows my whole body.

“Body Reinforcement Lv 2 purchased.”

Another light swallowed me whole.

“Body Reinforcement Lv 3 purchased.”

My body had gone through some changes. I could feel my muscles feeling stronger, and body was leaner. I could feel it. My body was at least 3 times stronger than before.

Body Reinforcement Lv 1 costs 10P. Lv 2 costs 50P. Lv 3 costs 250. Total of 310P faded away. But, they were worth every point.

With the changes, I felt as if I could take that Long Sword with one hand without any problems. These new upgrades made me feel stronger than when I had used Steel Body.

Now, it's time for more decisions....

Should I toughen up my body even more by purchasing Steel Body? Or, purchase some battle gear. What should I do?

This is where the road splits into two. If I was to purchase battle gear, I'm going to have to keep purchasing them, not to mention having to get relevant skills to use them. ALthough I did purchase a skill that was used with battle gears...I don't want to feel that I made the wrong mistake when it comes to investing. What should I do?

In games, having good gear is key, but this is reality and battle gears can sustain damage, and in worst cases, get lost... but considering performance... battle gears are the way to go.

I can buy them in the next Text. Wait, wait, wait. Skills can be used in the real world as well.

“Purchase Steel Body up to Lv 3.”

Out of curiosity, I wanted to know if it could be done. And, it was. My Steel Body jumped to level 3 in an instant.

I only have 204 points remaining now. Since I learned some skills... I'm going to skip on the armor. But, I will need weapons... the thing I learned from fighting today is that... guns are irrelevant.

There are too many damn enemies to shoot them down one by one. Aiming for their head doesn't work either. What moves them are the dark smoke inside them.

Simply put, that Dark Smoke is equivalent to my Divine Power. It basically means that they can still move even without their head on their shoulders.

Of course, a living lifeform would not be like them. Which brings me to ask another question.... Just how much more of the Undead am I going to have to endure? At this point, I'm starting to think it's not a bad idea to be getting a gun.

But... I can't afford to waste these points. A single point is worth 100,000 won in the real world, but the only way to earn it are through these battles.

Should I consider the option of earning cash in the real world to invest in this place? What should I do?

I'll need to think about how I can make money in my world.

As for weapons, I can purchase guns abroad but... it's not like I can actually get away with it. I don't even have the time to go overseas. I might as well get it now.

Only problem is that there are so many variances with these weapons, as the battles themselves. Let me get a gun, and some explosives on the side...

“Gun.”

Reward Search.

K2 RIFLE - 5P

MP5K PDW MK.2 - 5P

UZI - 5P

UMP45 - 5P

SPAS-12 - 5P

AKS-74U - 5P

SG552 Commando - 5P

Benelli M1014 - 5P

Kriss Super V - 5P

K8P PP2200 - 5P

MP7 A1 - 5P

M4Spectre - 5P

K1A1A Rail - 5P

MizonPP19 MK.2 - 5P

SR-2M Veresk - 5P

Saiga 12 - 5P

FN TPS - 5P

G36 - 5P

M16A2 - 5P

FA-MAS F1 - 5P

AUG-A1 - 5P

AN-94 - 5P

A long list of guns appeared. Regardless of their specs, every single gun came with a price tag of 5P.

I wonder if they're like the guns in the real world? Whatever. The real problem is going to be the ammunition...

Chapter 37: Hostility

Reward Search

Ammunition: 10 hours - 1P

Ammunition is set at 1P for 10 rounds. I guess..the kind doesn't matter since it's just 1P for 10 rounds. So, if I can kill 10 monsters with 10 rounds...I can earn 9P. That's what I've calculated.

Of course, I can earn all 10P if I beat the monsters to death with my bare hands, but I can't help but feel how easy it will be to use the ammunition to kill them.

“Grenade.”

Reward Search

- fragment Grenade - 1P
- Gas Grenade - 1P
- Chemical Grenade - 1P
- Smokescreen Grenade - 1P
- Flash Grenade - 1P

Even the grenades all cost 1P... I guess this means that all accessories like this go for 1P each. I just can't get over the possible loss that can occur, but it's not like I can do anything about it.

I'm going to purchase 30 grenades just to be safe. 20 fragment grenades and 10 hand grenades. This ought to be good enough for now. I'll even buy a rifle with about 1,000 rounds.

With this much fire power... I should be able to take out at least 500 monsters with ease, especially to those that are heavily grouped together.

Since I'm considering in buying a rifle...should I think about getting something with bigger clips? For an example, what about those banana clips that can hold 50 to 100 rounds?

Or, I could just get a machine gun that's fixed to a specific location...

Maybe not. I should just wait until how things play out.

For the time being, I should just get the K2 rifle. It's what I'm used to using anyway.

"Purchase K2 rifle. Purchase 1,000 rounds. Purchase 20 fragment grenades. Purchase 10 hand grenades."

There goes 135P in an instant. All I have left now is 69P.

“Blunt weapon.”

Reward Search

Mace - 5P

Warhammer - 5P

Flail - 5P

Club - 5P

Mjolnir - 5P

Morning star - 1P

Magic stick - 777,777P

Vajra - 5P

Demon Vajra - 200P

List of many dull weapons showed. Since when there were so many damn weapons in the dull category? What is up with their shapes too? I see some that I'm familiar with and others... well... it was new to me. Let's just say that.

Strange thing is..what I'm used to is having a single-handed weapon. A hammer or something that's metal.

Hmm...

“A dull weapon that’s tied to Lyfedearc and is under 69P.”

From what I remember, blurting out words like this will help me narrow down what I want. And just like that, it did.

Reward Search

Lyfedearc Apprentice Warrior Copper Iron Mace - 10P

Lyfedearc Apprentice Warrior Copper Hammer - 10P

Lyfedearc Apprentice Warrior Copper Club - 10P

Lyfedearc Apprentice Warrior Copper Flail - 10P

Lyfedearc Apprentice Warrior Bronze Iron Mace - 50P

Lyfedearc Apprentice Warrior Bronze Hammer - 50P

Lyfedearc Apprentice Warrior Bronze Club - 50P

Lyfedearc Apprentice Warrior Bronze Flail - 50P

Changing from Copper to Bronze bumped up the points by 5 times. Honestly, we all know steel is much denser than bronze... damn it... Should I just go find a mace somewhere? Maybe even ask a blacksmith to make one for me in the real world?

Why don’t I look for a bronze iron mace in the menu?

[Lyfedearc Apprentice Warrior Iron Mace]

A mace forged from iron which is used by the apprentice warriors of Lyfedearc. During fabrication, it has been infused with Divine Powers - allowing for it to possess much stronger durability than other items.

This weapon amplifies the Divine Power when used by an apprentice warrior of Lyfedearc.

“Wuhhh?” Talk about being awesome. I don’t think there’s anything else that I’d like to buy more than this weapon here. Really.

“Purchase Iron Mace of Lyfedearc’s Apprentice Warrior.”

Without a second thought, I made my purchase. And... as usual, a light appeared and left the weapon behind.

Alright, this is really useful.

“Summon Holy Bag.”

Pahht!

I placed the newly purchased Iron Mace into the Holy Bag.

19P were remaining now. What should I do with the rest? It’ll be a waste to swap them for cash....

I know I need to come up with a way to earn money in the real world, but I can't look over the fact that I need to be more fit there...

“Injury recovery. Under 10P.”

Reward Search

Regeneration - 10P

Arcane's Treatment - 18P

Modern Treatment - 10P

Only three different skills showed. What is up with this Arcane's Treatment? Why the hell is it 18P. What a weird number...

[Regeneration]

Allows your body to hold regenerative ability on its own. Just as a lizard being able to fully recover its lost tail in time, you will be able to heal your wounds 2x faster than that of a normal person.

It's effects will gradually increase as it levels.

[Arcane's Treatment]

A magician who wanted to create an affordable yet effective

treatments, Arcane used magic to increase the efficiency of the life force, thus discovering a method to temporarily maximize the ability to self heal.

[Modern Treatment]

The knowledge of modern emergency treatments. It allows you to manage various, poisons, and sickness.

“Pass on the third one. It’s sort of pointless when I have Divine Law to cover my injuries... but the regeneration ability looks fairly neat. Purchase.”

Pahhht.

Life took over me. I had the ability in me. It felt as if my body got lighter in the process.

God damn it. Ain’t this something else?

Good thing I have this now, because surviving is only going to keep getting harder. I’m going to invest more points into my body when I get the chance.

As for the remaining 9P, I’ll keep them as they are instead of swapping them out for cash.

That’s when it happened.

Test complete.

Player Jung Yoon-Hwan.

Return.

More light appeared, but when it was gone, I found myself back in my room again.

Death comes to those who don't fight.

Life is always testing us.

And if you're not able to survive against the currents, you will disappear, fade away with it.

I survived another one. Does this make the 5th day...?

“Sigh..”

I turned my side. On my back was the duffle bag, stuffed with everything I had previously packed. On my feet were the military grade boots.

It's what I had on me before heading into that white room.

I dropped the duffle bag on the floor and reached for the items on my waist. I stared at the items that were hanging from my waist band on the right. Before long, I just tossed them.

Kwacheek.

Needle Gun drops and breaks on the floor. I didn't even get much use out of it. I should've just bought a gun with all those points I had.... How stupid could I have been...

No, that's just not it. Everything I did up til this point was stupid. Like thinking that smashing the skull of an Undead would make them stop moving...

Chapter 38: Fight Or Die

No, that's just not it. Everything I did up til this point was stupid. Like thinking that smashing the skull of an Undead would make them stop moving...

“Keh...”

Zombies would die when their heads are bashed in. Same goes for the Skeletons.

Just what in the world was I thinking. You shithead.

This is a matter of life and death. It could be me or someone else that dies next time, so how could I be so stupid?

Because of me, a teenager is dead. Well, to be honest, it's not entirely my fault since we all have to protect ourselves in here.

But... if I had only been more careful. If only...I was fast enough...he could still be alive. That much I knew for sure.

“Damn it....”

My mouth was dry, and I couldn't get the sick feeling out of my stomach. Everything was bothering me.

“Damn it, damn it, god damn it!”

Kwang!

I smashed my hand on the wall. Pain radiates to my fist, but it quickly faded away.

Out of frustration, I went outside with a pack of cigarettes in my hand.

I place a cigarette between my lips and lit up the lighter. Cigarette's burning smoke was quickly making its way down my airway. Then, I let it out in a single sigh as I crouched down on the ground next to the door.

Why the hell is it so hard to just live?

Everyone else is living out their normal lives peacefully....so why am I the only one who's going through this? Getting involved in that hit and run....

Which reminds me, how am I supposed to catch them? Wait a minute, do I even have the luxury of going after them?

My head is spinning...

“Hooooo....”

Another exhale of heavily inhale smoke leaves my body. I flicked

off the burning cherry in the cigarette in order to blow out the fire.

I couldn't get over this feeling. It's like something that's just been stained within me.

But, i must do whatever I can to forget it because...I'm going to have to return to that hellhole.

“Ha...haha..”

Unable to think straight, I took out another stick and placed it between my lips. The burning cigarette smokes relieved my clouded mind.

Pull yourself together, you bastard.

Do you plan on dying already? Huh? I was constantly giving myself a hard time for what had happened. But, I didn't dwell on the thought for too long.

Plans for tomorrow.

Work for tomorrow.

Yeah, that's where I need to place my focus on.

I got through today like this...what am I going to do about

tomorrow? The increase in difficulty per day is insane....even with my recent upgrades, I'm not going to last forever.

Purchasing stuff from the real world should make more sense right now. I remember the hockey plates I used in the early stages. It did provide some protection, but it dulled my movements significantly.

I'll need something different....

What is there?

Something useful....

“Swat.”

Yeah, there was that!

The protective clothing worn by the swat team and the shield they use for raids. They're both made from heavy duty plastic and it's really light.

I can also use cotton-like materials that can be used for padding to buff up against dull weapons. The best part is that they can be easily purchased.

Alright.

I know what I'll need to get. I can just use Iron Mace as a weapon, and use the gun as a back up.

The problem is money. It's always money.

I can survive with what I have saved up right now....but I'll need to figure out what I need to do for the future. Technically, I can live off of points since 5P can be swapped into 500,000 won. But it's a better investment to upgrade abilities and skills, and earning money separately in this world.

Now...what.

Don't tell me I have to join a pyramid or something.

"Damn...my head is hurting... Let me first get the protective armor, and think about what's to come later. Sigh..."

I just sat there with a big frown on my face looking like I was pissed at the world. I had so many random thoughts in my head, I didn't know how I was going to get through this.

But, a sudden idea came to me.

My body.

Yeah, my body.

I'll need to train my body no matter what happens.

“Steel Body Technique...”

This is the foundation of everything. It uses energy in order to strengthen my body. By toughening up my physique; durability, reaction time, and strength all increases.

Basically, I'm like a super saiyan, or the spiderman.

That bastard...doesn't just have the ability to shoot webs and stick to walls. His entire body has been strengthened to handle the physical stress.

Of course, I won't be able to get that like that with my current Steel Body Technique. I realized this when I fought against the Undead Knight...but I probably have gotten 30% stronger.

For an example, if I barely was able to lift 10kg before, I should be able to lift up to 20kg. It basically means that someone like me who was a nobody has at least reached the level of athletes.

So I began thinking deeply about everything.

Working out.

Yeah, that's the key.

I'll need to start working out, With that, I'll be able to increase Steel Body Technique and Body Strengthening by folds. If I had some muscle to begin with... I might be much stronger now with increased physical attributes.

Right?

Working out... and money...

Even though there's Healing skills within the Divine Law, but... I don't think I'll be able to make any real money with this without getting caught up in some drama...

“MMA.”

I've heard that MMA matches bring in good money in Korea. More than expected. So, does that mean even white-collared workers go get their asses beat for money?

Who could turn down the amount of fight money that's proposed?

“Alright, then....”

Let me think about MMA fights. As for working out, and making money...I'll priortize those. It would be great if I could make enough money to support myself from fighting in the ring

Chapter 39: Fight Or Die

“Alright, then....”

Let me think about MMA fights. As for working out, and making money...I'll prioritize those. It would be great if I could make enough money to support myself from fighting in the ring

Honestly, I could act like I'm the god-sent healer and start raking in money by using healing abilities. But, I highly doubt that I could treat cancer with Basic Heal.

Why don't I test this theory out? If I survive the next round, I'll learn Disease Heal.

Thud. Thud. Thud.

I made my way up the stairs, and opened the door to get inside. I sat down in front of my computer and began searching.

Long list of words came up, but a single group site got my attention.

Its name was [private MMA match information forum]. It was right in my face.

I registered within the group to view its contents. I found out there are 5 to 6 matches which are privately held per month. They

even held events at clubs on the days it wasn't open, if not at hotels.

The host weren't always the same, but it didn't matter as regular people could watch. At least that's what the ads were saying... I also read that starting from round of 16 would be the most optional for those who haven't proven themselves.

Well, having a round of 32 for something like this would be too much. For a round of 16, at least 16 fighters would need to gather. It didn't seem like a walk in the park.

For Fight money, 200,000won is awarded at round of 16, 400,000won at quarterfinals, 800,000 for semifinals, and 1,600,000won for finals. If you win, it's 3,200,000won.

Of course there were places that offered round of 32. Wait, there's even round of 64 here.

I had no idea that MMAs were this popular... Could there be...

“Yeah. Gambling. Gambling has to be involved. I mean, how else would something like this be so popular?”

Koreans sure do love to gamble. We even have celebrities who lost everything because of it.

I guess this isn't any different. A fighting place within the gambling den. But, 400,000won from quarterfinals isn't bad at all

considering how I don't spend much on living expenses since I live alone.

If I run 4 fights per month, that's 1,600,000won right there. Honestly, I think I'd be strong enough to make it into the semifinals. With all the upgrades I've been getting, it should be a cake walk.

Physical enhancement at level 3 made me into somewhat of an athlete. And, if I use Iron Body Technique on top of this, my physical abilities will be in folds!

Why don't I... give it a try?

I began looking at the Round of 32 fight forum that's due for opening within 3 days. Starting pay here is 100,000won. There are currently 30 people who have gathered for this event. So does that mean there's 2 open slots remaining?

I clicked and sent them a message. Right after, I was looking online for SWAT protective gear as fast as I could.

I went to the overnight shopping area in Dongdaemun to purchase some protective gear for the fight. I even got a shield to match. The gear I purchased wasn't something that local police would wear. It was something that the American SWAT team wore in hostile situations. Talk about luck.

Honestly, I can't trust protective gear made in Korea... I mean, how could I when the quality of what I'm wearing is way better than what's being made domestically.

But it is costly. Thanks to the gear, I only had 720,000won left in my account. I'm going to have to make every penny count from this point on.

Stomach growls.

"I guess I can't fill my stomach with just a triangular shaped kimbap."

Let's see...is it just now 11? I've been awake since 2am. It's amazing how I'm not sleepy at all. Is it because of the recent skills I've acquired? Physical Enhancement, Steel Body. Basic Divine Body, and Regeneration. I've basically learned everything that's good for the body. When I think about it, I know there'd be many skills that would be beneficial to me like these. I'll look for them when I have time later.

But I'm going to have to get something hearty in order to fully utilize them... but what am I going to eat?

Ring ring.

A message was received from an unknown number. I thought it was a spam, so I want to junk it but I realized it was something

rather very important.

-It's Hye-Won. Can we meet today?

Oh, a text from Hye-Won!

Of course I can see her today.

-Okay, where do you want to meet up?

-Please come to my place.

Her responses were very fast. I already had the address to her house.

“Let's get going.....”

I left the house after throwing on something reasonable. The air was getting colder. It must be because the summer is coming to an end.

Is this the right place...?

I stood in front of a giant house with walls that were about 3 meters in height surrounded by dark red bricks which were

stacked on top one another to form walls. The main door stood even taller than me. That Hye-Won...was she born with a silverspoon in her mouth?

A corporate heir? Is that what's going on?

I had all sorts of thoughts running through my head as I rang the door bell.

Ding dong.

-Who is it.

A familiar voice came from the house.

“Jung Yoon-Hwan from the white room.”

-Come on in.

She had a short response, as always. The door made a zing! Noise and opened up after its locks were undone.

When the doors opened, I walked inside to an open garden. There was even a walk path that was laid out to the house's front door.

I was getting closer to the door when Hye-Won opened up and

came out. She was in something rather provocative.

No, that could just be me. There's lots of girls on the street who wear clothes like this.

Short-shorts, something that fully exposes the thighs with a loose tank-top over her shoulders.

"Welcome."

"Yeah, you called me here... is this where you live?"

She nodded.

"Can I come in?"

She nodded again.

She went inside after nodding twice. Not saying a single word...

When I made my way inside her house, I saw a living that I've only seen in the movies. Those extremely big places... unreal. I couldn't believe what I was seeing.

She's not just a rich girl. She's filthy rich.

I'm not sure how rich she is, but what I do know is that the

difference between us can't be gapped.

Even 1,000,000,000won won't get you something like this in Mapo County. There's no way in my life that I'd be able to afford something like this.

Chapter 40: Fight Or Die

Even 1,000,000,000won won't get you something like this in Mapo County. There's no way in my life that I'd be able to afford something like this.

But with everything that's happened so far, it could be possible. I do possess a lot of weird and different skills.

While I was heavily thinking about money and my situation, I noticed Hye-Won making her way over to where I was with two glasses of Orange Juice in her hands. She placed the glasses on a table.

As usual, she didn't show much expression nor said something to avoid any awkward silence.

What is up with this girl? Has she never heard of the phrase, 'being social?'

"Looks like your parents are gone."

"I live alone."

"In a place this big?"

Nodded.

She nods her head and just stares at me. What the hell does that mean? How can she live in a place like this all by herself?

Something is definitely off. But, is it alright for me to ask her? Maybe, I shouldn't. She reached out to give me the cup filled with juice.

“You’re not going to ask?”

“Can I?”

“They always do. They bombard me with half-hearted words and with questions that have no meanings. It just reminds me of the pain I have.”

I let out a smirk without noticing. I know too well what she means. People tend to ask questions they’re curious about regardless how the person on the other side feels.

How come you don’t have a girlfriend? When do you plan on getting a job? How much are you worth?

There are so many ill-mannered words that flow to make a single question.

“Probably because I’m not like everyone else.”

“I see.”

“Yup.”

“You talk as if that’s none of your business.”

“It could be. Anyways..do you have a reason for calling me over here?”

Nodded again.

“Help me buy items.”

“Help you buy items?”

“Yes.”

“What are you talking about... ah... are you talking about the items that you can buy using points?”

“That as well, but I mainly need help with getting stuff from the real world. I’ll compensate you.”

“You don’t have to... compensate me for anything...”

I can’t take money from her for something as simple as this... that’ll be just too much.

“No, I want to. You need it, don’t you?”

“Need what?”

“Money.”

“Do I look like I need money?”

Nodded.

She nods her head again. She began opening her mouth with that blank look on her face.

“You’re not rich.”

“Yup, I’m not.”

“Work?”

This girl... she keeps asking rude questions like they’re nothing.

“Part-time.”

After she heard what I had to say, she just stood there blinking.

“Family?”

“None. I’m an orphan. What is up with this interrogation?”

“Live with me here.”

Her comment made my mind go blank. It was as if someone came in with an eraser and just wiped everything from my head.

What the hell is this girl saying? Is what I was thinking while I looked at her empty face.

“I’m going to be around you when we get pulled back to that place anyway. It’s so I could survive.”

“That’s... a good idea, but why do you want to live together?”

“Because you don’t have money, and I do. I want you to protect me in that world, and I’ll compensate you with a place to live and money. Isn’t it rational?”

Rational...it actually is. But, I get the feeling that this is just wrong. How could I live with a girl alone like this?

“Who do you think you are? I know you’re rich and all, but what would your parents say about this? Are you right in the head? How can you talk about living with a guy like it’s nothing?”

There were other things that came to mind, but I only said a

couple of things. Even if she was rich, her money wasn't the way to go about it. It was actually her parents' money, and they weren't going to allow some random boy coming into their home unannounced.

A boy will be a boy. Even if I don't have ill-intentions, I'll still be a boy in their eyes.

And she plans to bring a boy into the house? She has no idea who i am. It only takes a split-second for something bad happen. Nothing saying I'll do anything like that....

“I'm an illegitimate child of Samsung Electronic's president.”

I can't believe what she had just said.

“What did you just say?”

“I'm the daughter of President Lee Ki-Suk of Samsung Electronics.”

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Samsung was the biggest corporation in this tiny little country.

“This house and all the money I have...it's in my name. Lee Ki-Suk gave it all to me.”

She wasn't just being blunt, it was as if she was talking about

someone else. I was dumbfounded from what I was hearing.

Did she hate her father because she was an illegitimate child of Lee Ki-Suk?

“Better now? There is not a single problem. It’s not like that guy still remembers me. It’s been 2 years since I’ve seen his face anyway.”

Her words just made me sigh. I felt the frustration in her voice, but there was nothing I could do to comfort her.

But isn’t it at least great that she has money? There are people who’d kill their own family for money. Should I tell her about that?

What the hell am I thinking.

“I see...”

“You can live here starting today. All you have to do in return is to protect me.”

Her way of talking, getting straight to the point without any details, was getting to me. It made my head hurt.

Regardless, according to her... she was alone too. Just like me.

Although she has a lot of money, all it was good for was merely surviving.. That's it. She can purchase anything she wanted to survive.

“Okay, then...why don't we start off with buying some defensive gear. And, things to eat after that.”

Even if I was protecting her from the front, she'd need her gear. No one knows what could happen in there if we're not careful.

“Ah, by the way, what did you end up buying this time around?”

“This thing here.”

She put her hand out to show me what she had bought. When she opened her hand, a light shined from her palms and appeared a long staff.

An ability to summon a staff? Or, did the staff summon itself?

The staff had a peculiar look to it with a sharp curve at the tip. Like those in the movies or cartoon for wizards.

“A magic staff?”

She nodded again. She always nods.

“Something like my Holy Bag?”

“I couldn’t buy that because it was too expensive.”

“How many points?”

“1000P.”

Chapter 41: Fight Or Die

“Why was it so expensive...”

Wasn't my Holy Bag cheaper? Wait...it probably was cheaper because it was meant for my class? Hmm. I'm not entirely sure. I don't know what the standard is.

“Anyways... you should know by now that whatever you buy in this world to use in there won't last that long. The best thing you can do is to save up your points.”

“I see.”

“And...even if it's expensive, you have to buy that Bag. You need to consider the possibility of starving.”

“Alright. I will.”

“What else did you buy? Did you get any skills?”

“I got Natural Magic Regeneration, Natural Health Regeneration, and Magic Increase since I already have Fire Magic from the beginning.”

“Health and Mana Regeneration... they seem like the perfect fit if you're going to continuously use Fire. What about the staff?”

“It increases Magic Regeneration and Magic Power.”

“Good choice....”

Increased Magic Power will inflict additional damage and Magic Recovery will mean that she'll be able to use more Fire Magic. What a strategy.

I could say it's the perfect plan for a Magician. But, I am concerned about how she has done nothing for defense.

In this game, Magicians are referred to as the “Damage Dealers” as they are in charge of making powerful attacks on the enemy. Priests on the other hand....are actually more of the supporting role...

The way things are going right now..it feels like I'm a Tank plus a Dealer, huh? Maybe a Healer on top of that as well.

“Buy Physical Enhancement too.”

“Physical Enhancement?”

“It's a skill that raises your Muscle, Stamina, and Reflexes all at once. You won't feel a significant difference, but it's enough to provide you with some stamina even if you're a Magician.

This isn't just a game. If you want to survive, you have to do

what's necessary to make it. If you die... that'll be that.

“What then?”

“It's important that you don't die. There's something that Charles Darwin said long ago. Only those who can adapt will survive, not the smartest nor the strongest.”

She seemed to get lost in thought from what I had just said. Good. This isn't something that can be overlooked.

What would you actually need in order to adapt to the change?

The ability to apply and adapt.

Yeah, you'll need to be able to adapt to any change that comes your way in order to survive. But, Hye-Won seems to lack that part.

Her Fire Power is only good for destruction and nothing else. She's going to have to find other means to improve her odds of survival. And... Physical Enhancement just happens to be one of those means. Having higher stamina means you can run longer distances without tiring out so quickly

As of right now, my Basic Heal will keep her alive but dangers can always come when you least expect it.

“So think long and hard, because it’s going to keep you alive.”

“I wish I could become a Priest like you.”

“Defense is good, but attack is fairly weak. Actually, defense isn’t all that great either. I just raised it like that.”

What you see right now isn’t just a Priest. It’s more of like a Divine Warrior. Who would’ve thought that I’d become somewhat of a holy badass?

“Okay, get changed.”

“Why?”

“Because we have to go out. What do you plan on doing with that on?”

“Ah....okay.”

Hye-Won went into her room. While she was there, I began thinking about everything she needed. What can she use..

Everything I used was already in my bag, so I had to take Hye-Won shopping.

Hye-Won ended up buying some protective gear from the place I bought mine, and afterwards, we bought as much as we could in the mart. It was necessary when it was for me and her. By the time we got done with running all of our errands, it already had turned 8.

In the house, I started placing stuff into my bag. Thanks to this thing, I had almost 200kg worth of supplies.

I also bought another backpack while I was out shopping. I put as much rations as I possibly could.

When I was done with packing, it had already turned 10.

“You know, for today, even if I do end up taking money from you there’s no need for me to stay here.”

“I see...”

“Yeah, I have my own ways of making money so you don’t have to worry about that.”

Even if we had previously made agreements, there’s really no point to me receiving money from her. If there was...I’d just take the money and train her as much as I could.

Her getting her body into shape or at least on par with the

athletes... that'd be a substantial help to her.

“Don't you think time is more important than that?”

Did she know what was I thinking? She was basically telling me that time has precedence over everything.

“We need to prepare for that place while we're in the real world. That's why it's better to spend allotted time wisely instead of trying to earn money because that's inefficient.”

“You're right.”

“I think you're taking this thing the wrong way. Having thoughts about you owing me or not wanting to live with a minor girl is a luxury that we don't have.”

Her blunt attitude and getting straight to the point surprised me.

She is right about everything.

“And... I'm not that young. I'm in my last year in high school. I'll soon be an adult.”

I couldn't help but laugh when she said she'll soon become an adult with a straight face.

“What’s so funny?”

“Nothing.”

I sat down quietly on the floor and took out a cigarette from the bag. I just had a sudden urge to smoke all of a sudden.

“Can I smoke here?”

“Go ahead. I’ll just open the windows.”

“Alright, thanks.”

As I was trying to take out my lighter, Hye-Won had leaned forward like a cat. She was on her hands and knees on the floor.

She reaches her arm out to me. I could see through the loose shirt she was wearing. Wait...this girl wasn’t wearing a bra... this whole time? Omg...

Pahht.

While I was distracted with what I was seeing right in front of me, her fingers brushed the tip of my cigarette, making a small, yet faint spark.

My lungs began filling up with its smoke. Hah...they really

weren't lying when they said smoking helps relieve stress.

It just tastes so damn good...

Chapter 42: Fight Or Die

“Alright...I’ll stay with you for the time being. Everything you’ve said up to this point is true. I’m not in a position to make excuses.”

When it comes to life and death, worrying about what others might think or getting close to a girl like her wouldn’t matter at all.

Having her with me works out perfectly as well. Her fire attacks are powerful and they can do long distance damage.

“It’s almost time....come here.”

Hye-Won came as close as she was when she lit my cigarette on fire after I had made hand gestures. She was moving as if a cat was making its seduction.

I have no idea what the hell this girl could be thinking. But, I didn’t let it show and took my hand out to her.

Her eyes were fixated on my hand. I ignored her gazes and placed my hand on top of her head to cast my skill.

“Basic Recovery.”

It lit up.

“Basic Recovery. Basic Recovery.”

Lights flashed again.

“Now, try to get some rest. I’ll cast another just before we get into that room.”

She was now looking at me with a curious look in her eyes. I wanted to know what that look was for but I didn’t let it get to me.

“What about you, ahjusshi?”

“What about me?”

She was still in her cat-like position.

“Working out.”

I had a skill that almost instantly recovered stamina. With it, it wasn’t a problem tiring out muscles to their breaking point. Only a fool wouldn’t use this to their advantage.

I turned my back to her gazes and left for the garden.

“Pahh....pah...”

Push ups, sit ups, sit downs and stand ups. They are simple workout routines, but it's enough to make muscles grow. Thanks to my Physical Enhancement, I didn't have a problem doing few dozens of routines with ease, but the ache was starting to pile up as the numbers got higher.

Overworked muscles began screaming their torment at me. Even so, I stuck with my routine and kept on until I felt as if my entire body would give out.

The weather was quite chilly. However, the heat coming off my body was enough to keep me warm.

“Keehh...”

There we go. Now, this is the way to tear up your muscles.”

“Basic Recovery.”

Pahht...the pain quickly reduces. Unfortunately, there were still room for improvement.

“Basic Recovery.”

With that last one, I could feel the weight lifting off of my entire body. I went on repeating this process for 3 more hours. I worked my muscles and used Basic Recovery to heal them.

After my little training, I could feel my muscles getting stronger. If only I could keep this up for few months....I should be able to reach the level of professional athletes.

And if I could add on Physical Enhancement skill on top of that, I might be able to achieve some unbelievable strength. No, I absolutely need to strength like that in order to survive.

But first.. I'll need to keep strengthening my body by any means.

“Pant. pant. Pant.”

I began working out again like a maniac, only to keep tiring myself out. Hye-Won came out to the garden and just looked at me.

“Does that work?”

“Yes, pant.”

“What should I be doing?”

“You should, pant, workout your muscles, pant, so you can have more stamina and strength.”

She nodded. She came right next to me and began doing push ups. I don't think she's ever worked out before. I could see her arms trembling just after 3 push ups before falling face flat.

“Basic Recovery.”

I used the skill on her. She nodded in response to what I had just did for her, and she began doing push ups again.

She was able to do one more. Total of 4 now. But, every time she went down, I could see her boobs becoming more full from gravity pulling it down.

“Basic Recovery.”

Her push ups improved to 5. How should I say this... I think she's getting better rather quickly. Is it because she's never worked out before? Regardless, Hye-Won will be able to do about 10 of them at this rate.

“Push ups aren't the only thing you should be doing. You have to do other stuff too.”

“Like doing sit ups?”

“Yeah.”

“Then, come hold my legs.’

“What?”

She wants me to hold her legs?

I grabbed her legs just as she asked me to. Originally, I was thinking about getting a chair for her, but she had to insist on me holding her legs for her to do her pitiful sit ups.

Judging by her entire body trembling just with one sit up, it's obvious that her body severely lacks muscle mass. I wonder if all girls are like this....

Hye-Won just has to be on the weaker side.

I couldn't help but look at Hye-Won's boobs shake as her body was trembling, struggling to make a full sit up.

Ho? What's up with this perverted thought I'm getting? Where is this coming from...I really need to keep my distance from her or I'm going to end up getting in trouble.

While I was thinking, Hye-Won finished 2 sit ups and had given up on the ground.

“Basic Heal.”

I casted another for her and helped her increase her muscle mass.

“You ready?”

“Yes.”

We got into our protective gear. She complained about her chest being too tight, but there wasn't much of a choice. The helmet was too bulky, so we chose not to wear it. But if you consider safety, it was a must, but right now worrying about the dangers was too important compared to being safe. We needed our view.

It was already 1:50am.

On my back was a hiker's backpack and Hye-Won had one similar, but with a sleeping bag in it.

Her backpack weighed roughly around 6kg, whereas mine was around 20kg. With everything we had in our backpacks, there was no way we'd starve to death anytime soon.

“Even if you don't end up where I am, try to do your best, alright?”

Nods.

I rubbed her head as she nodded.

“Survive.”

“Okay.”

I found myself in that very white room after hearing her voice.

“It’s that time again....”

Chapter 43: Fight Or Die

Changing yourself to become a conservative,

Is because pain is too frequent.

By someone.

“Hmm...working out is great, but I think I need to increase my protein intake. Wait, other nutritions too.”

When you think about it, working out isn't the only key to becoming stronger. You need to take right nutritions to help you build that up. I'm going to prepare some actual food when I get to the other side. Then, I'll be working out and eating. That'll get me stronger in no time.

Basic Recovery really is a miracle skill. It recovers any fatigue the body has and puts the body in its top-notch condition. Using that skill and working out repeatedly will speed up my physical improvements.

Only thing that gets in the way is the nutrition intake. Don't I need to worry about that as well? I've decided to put more thought into this when I got back.

As for the Wound Heal, I wonder what's that like?

It grows skin on top of its wound where the skin has separated through scarring. A divine gift.

Could the modern medicine be rendered useless with skills like this? There's a possibility that I won't need nutritions when I have in Basic Recovery.

There's definitely a need for me to go over this later when I have some more free time. Until then, I must increase my muscle mass. Having stronger muscles lead to better stamina and endurance along with strength.

I can get much stronger with the help of skill effects as well.

Player : Jung Yoon-Hwan

Ability : Lyfedearc Divine Arts LV 2 - Apprentice Warrior Mastery Lv 2 - Apprentice Warrior Shield Mastery Lv 1 - Apprentice Warrior Armor Mastery Lv 1 - Apprentice Warrior Steel Body Technique LV 1.

Life Force Absorb LV 1. Physical Enhancement LV 3. Regeneration LV 1.

Weapon : Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Bronze Flail

Accessory – Necklace : Lyfedearc's Apprenticeship Warrior Necklace

Accessory – Bracelet : Lyfedearc's Apprenticeship Warrior Bracelet.

Tool : Lyfedearc's Apprentice Warrior Holy Bag.

Status : Fourth Test Passed

Point : 19P

My stats appeared on the wall, including the three skills I've purchased. Steel Body, Physical Enhancement, and Regeneration.

I have a good feeling that Regeneration will come in handy. Honestly, basic properties of having a divine body has similar characteristics as Regeneration. It's basically a skill that increases recovery in one's body. As I'm already reaping benefits from both skills, you could say that the rate in which my body heals itself is far beyond that of a normal person.

For an instance, a small cut would be fully healed within 2 hours. My body will stop wounds from bleeding right away and begin tissue repair.

It may seem like Regeneration consumes my stamina, but because it uses energy from the Divine Power, it doesn't add weight to my problems.

This here too is a god's gift.

I wonder what the Goddess, Lyfedearc, is wanting from me? No, not just the goddess.

Just what are all the Gods in this game thinking about? From what I've discovered earlier, gods really do exist in this plain. Maybe that's why i can only wonder...

Either way, my somewhat new found abilities have allowed me to reach the levels of a professional fighter. And, once I get past level 4... I should be able to acquire strength that I've never imagined before. Of course,

this is when if I consistently workout.

Fifth test

Long-Term Survival - Varcan Mountain Range

1P awarded for every enemy killed

I noticed the change in text before me. Long-Term Survival? And, the Varcan Mountain Range is supposed to be the terrain?

I don't like the Long-Term Survival text. It bothers me. It doesn't say how long I'm supposed to survive for. I should be at least glad that thorough preparations have been made this time around,

because if we didn't....things would be looking very dangerous right about now.

There's 200kg worth of supplies in the Holy Bag and another 50kg on my back. That totals to 250kg of supplies. This should be enough...to keep us alive for 2 months.

The white wall disappeared short after, and I could see myself in an unknown area within the mountains.

Morning must be coming around since the sun is rising over there. It was rather soothing to see that.

Strangely, I wasn't afraid of the situation at hand even when I was stuck on an unknown mountain.

I wonder where Hye-Won could be?

"Just how long do they plan on having us survive to win this round..." I thought to myself out of frustration.

First, I'm in the mountains. It has to be the Varcen Mountain since that's what it said on the text earlier.

Second, the rules are to probably survive on this mountain as long as I can. This place should be infested with countless monsters hiding in the shadows.

Third, what should I do?

“I should...secure the surrounding area for the time being...then, I’ll make a camp for myself.”

I began planning things out as calmly as I could. It was actually pretty surprising to see myself so calm and acclimated to the whole situation.

“Now...” I turned my head to look at the peak.

“I’ll need to achieve high grounds...” They’re the best when checking the terrain. With water being source of life, I’ll move closer to a creek or a river when I find one.

And.. if there’s a cave...I could use it as a hideout. I mean, I could take care of myself when I’m awake, but the problem is when I’m fast asleep. That’s when it gets really dangerous.

Wait. Can I just not sleep and be active? I do have that recovery skill to help.

Thud. Thud.

I began taking steps towards the closest peak around me, but all the wild grass and plants weren’t making it easy to make my way through using my mace to help me in the process.

When I got some distance, I stopped after noticing something.

“This is....”

There was a path. A path on a mountain could only mean one thing. There’s an intelligent form walking back and forth the same path on the ground.

This means...something most likely lived around here...I wouldn’t even be surprised if it was a werewolf by this point. I’ve already seen Skeletons and Zombies that tried to kill me.

“Kuwuhh!”

“Ook Zaka!”

“Zaka Toom!”

Boom!

I could hear something from a far. It sounded like some sort of language that I couldn’t make out yet with some strange beating sound. Are they..the aboriginals?

I began making my way to the source of the noise.

“That’s...”

They were life forms which I've never seen before. What's for sure right now is that they're not human. But, they walk on two feet and have two arms just like us.

Their bodies appeared to be very rigid and stern like that of a body-builder even though their height barely passed 160cm.

What should I call them? These strange life-forms with a face of a wild boars were fighting against a bear with sticks and stone axes.. The bear begins to more aggressively after getting stabbed a few times.

They continued to throw spears at the bear while trying to smash the bear with stone axes.

Don't tell me they expect me to survive after getting jump by those guys.

I seem to ask myself this question quite a lot, but just who the hell made this game, huh?

Chapter 44: Fight Or Die

Don't tell me they expect me to survive after getting jump by those guys.

I seem to ask myself this question quite a lot, but just who the hell made this game, huh?

Does he want us to die?

Thankfully, I bought a gun earlier. It should help a lot when I try to get rid of those guys there. I'll just have to shoot down few of them from afar, then aim for the ones coming closer to me.

But... I can't be irrational when using my gun. I have to reserve my ammo.

I've just been lucky so far because it was rather easy for me to take down the Undead Knight and that zombie abomination as a Paladin.

It could prove to be rather difficult for me to even kill a bear at this point.

Ah...so this is where things start looking dim for the Paladin. My combat abilities dwindle when it's not against the Undead. But, what can I do?

“I must be...just really stupid.”

How could I forget to buy a silencer with this gun? What the hell is wrong with me. Maybe...I'm just out of it since all I do is get dragged to this place every damn day. Not to mention, I can't even catch a break during these fights. It's a constant struggle to survive and win.

Just thinking about all the points I've wasted now is making me pissed off.

I shouldn't waste anymore time thinking about what's already happened. I can't change the past. I should move right now.

Let's decide to either take care of those life-forms or move on.

“Wait....”

There's a possibility that I'm not alone here again. I mean, I've already met Hye-Won twice. It can't be a coincidence.

“If that's the case...should I start lighting things up here?”

I took out my K2 Rifle from the Holy Bag, and began walking forward with the clip that was already loaded with ammunition.

This Rifle hasn't had been tested, but we'll see how good it aims. If all fails, I'll just shoot them up close. You can't miss like that.

I slowly made my way behind the life-forms. Luckily, they haven't noticed my presence around them. It could be possible because of the fight they just had with the bear. I got as close as 20 meters without them noticing me.

They were in sight of my scope. The war that was furthest in the back with a wooden spear was my target.

Bang!

The bullet connected with the target's shoulder. It went exactly where I aimed. And, I thought I'd have to shoot a couple of rounds to get the hang of it, but I guess I was wrong? Well... good for me!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

My Rifle began going off like the Chinese fireworks. The bullets were flying all over the place, piercing their bodies like it was nothing.

Few creatures fell to the ground immediately with their heads blown off, while the others had holes in their torsos.

"Alright. Cleared. Now, all that's left is that bear."

The bear began charging towards me as I was finishing up my shooting.

My Rifle takes aim at its head.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Two bullets hit his shoulder, and the third goes right through its head. The bear falls and rolls on the ground from the momentum it created while charging at me.

I wonder how far the gunshots can be heard? I hope...Hye-Won heard it and is coming closer to me.

But...there's always that chance that I could be attracting unwanted attention...

Then again, it should also help keep creatures like that away from my current location.

I walked past the bear's carcass, and began making my way over to the strange life-forms. These creatures had primitive clothes and weapons at their disposal, but their faces weren't human. Not in the least.

They don't appear to be close to homosapiens, but I will admit that they're above monkeys and chimpanzees when it comes to being superior in the genetic pool.

Wait a minute...hold on. Just how long do I have to keep doing

this? Is there a time limit to what I'm doing? Can't they just give me an idea how long I'm supposed to be here?

First things first. I'm going to need a camp for safe grounds.

While hiking the mountains, I saw small gap between the cliff walls. Downside is that I had to make my way up the cliff wall to reach it, but it should keep me safe from any unwanted dangers.

Alright. Let's go.

“Heup.”

I grabbed onto wherever I could firmly hold, and started making my way up the wall. It was roughly 6meters in height. The wall wasn't that high to be honest, but it wasn't low either. And, I knew I was wasting a lot of energy since I had no idea of how to climb the right way.

Tuk. Tuk.

I made my way up top to find myself a hole that's just big enough to fit two people. Inside was a long, deep hole that looked like a cave. Please don't tell me this is a cafe?

Let's see....

Thud. Thud.

I could see the blocked end. It should be about 5meters from the entrance hole. It's pretty wide too. It shouldn't be a problem fitting four people here to sleep. This sure is a strange place. I wonder how this place came to be?

“But why did it have to be in the mountains....?”

I should use the fire idea again to kill everything I can in order to gain some major points....

But

It'll be too dangerous this time around unless Hye-Won is found first.

My stomach rumbled. Hunger was kicking in.

I set my backpack on the floor and ate whatever I felt like eating.

There's about... 700,000 won left in my account so... does that mean I'd have to start asking Hye-Won to help me out? I should start making money instead...

What to do... hmm...

I pulled out a calorie stick. They may call it a calorie stick, but it has lots of other nutrients that's good for the body. I chewed on it like it was my last day to live. It didn't have much taste. It was just something to chew on. Like I said, I chewed on it like it was my last day to live.

The sun was settling from afar. With it, ended my eating.

I got on the floor and did some push ups. Even without protein... my muscles are gaining mass, but I should still consider taking some protein powder to help the process.

“Huk. Huk. Huk.”

I did as many pushups as I could until it got sore, then I used Basic Recovery again. That's how my night was spent.

Chapter 45: A New Way

Basic Divine Flesh, Recovery, and Physical Enhancement. My body wasn't feeling any sort of tiredness with these three skills around.

The sky was blue, but not cold. Although the sun was gone for the night, it wasn't cold or anything.

Usually, legs hurt and I feel tired when I trek for a long time, but I was completely fine.

I repeatedly did push-ups and squats while contemplating on my next move. What would I need to do in order to keep on surviving...

I'll need to find a way to reduce point usage and make sure I can get as much as I can out of it. Not to mention, I still need to decide on how I'm going to live in the real world. If Hye-Won can support me... I can just live with her. That would be the ideal situation for me right now. With her help, I can spend all my time here instead of working at a job.... I mean, that's okay, isn't it?

This is becoming a hassle. I don't know what to do anymore.... My head says it's okay, but my heart says it's not.

“Sigh...”

I stopped my push-ups for a second. My muscles were swollen

from the work out.

Talk about bulking up fast...

“Why don’t I put my personal feelings aside for now and just try to see what’s best for me?” I looked up into the night skies.

What about other things?

Right now, everything about me is inefficient. I’ve been wasting points and time by having similar skills set up....

What to do....?

What’s important right now is that I don’t forget about trying to survive. Survival is my goal...

What do I need to do in order to survive?

I’ll first need to be adaptable to my surroundings. I’ll also need to be stronger as well.

To become strong. But, how? Just physically? Or through enhancement techniques?

Which should I choose?

“So I hit a wall....”

I laid myself down in order to begin doing push-ups again. My mind needed to clear some things, and working out would help with just that.

The first skill I acquired was the Divine Law. The rest were just add-ons.

“Sigh...”

I let out a long sigh before making a decision.

I’ll be going with Physical Enhancement first, then bump it up with the help of Steel Body. Those two should make things a hell of a lot easier for me when I peak them out, because if I can keep myself from getting killed in the first attack, I can just recover with heal.

As long as I don’t get killed in the first attack...and being able to withstand their direct attacks...

I will need to be physically capable. I will need to become stronger.

It’s probably wise to increase defense as my physical properties go up. Now that I think about it... I wonder how much defense I’ll need to increase? Probably to the point where I can take getting shot with a handgun, and still stand.

Another question here is...could I even reach that level even with all the skills I master? I mean, strengthening muscles, enhancing stamina, increasing my defense are all different.

“I guess I don’t have a choice.” I’ll just have to spend all of my points into one thing at a time. I’ll start out with increasing Physical Enhancement and Steel Body. That’ll be my immediate goal.

That’s...how I’m going to survive.

I quickly stood up. Soon after, I was doing repetitions of sitting down and standing up. I could feel my muscle legs swelling up.

My night was spent with me working out my body.

After eating breakfast, I placed my backpack in the corner of the cave and came out to look around. I didn’t set any fires around me because I was worried that Hye-Won might be nearby, but she wasn’t.

Why? There were no smokes around, that’s why.

Hye-Won’s weapon is fire. Even if she doesn’t cause a forest fire, it’s only normal that I’d see a smoke coming from one of her

attacks.

This could only mean that I'm alone here. But, just to be sure, I'll stay here for another week.

Thud. Thud.

I walked through the mountains alert. I could've stayed in the cave, but I had my reasons for making my way down here.

It was to kill something.

How else could I stack up on points without killing anything?

I made my way to where I had originally seen the bear hoping there'd be other monsters nearby, but nothing was there when I had arrived.

"Huh?"

Where is the bear carcass? I moved closer to where the bear had died previously. There was a drag mark on the ground where it had been pulled by something. Even the muscly monster-looking guys' corpses were gone.

"Sigh."

I think I know what happened. Those guys had friends. God damn it. Just how many of them are there?

It's going to be hella difficult if there are hundreds of them just like the Skeletons...

Something jumped out from the bushes while I was thinking about the whole situation.

“Kuahku?”

Monster-like guy said something while having its eyes on me. Is he alone?

“Kwah! Kokotuca!”

What the hell is this thing yapping about?” He looked very excited seeing me. It wasn't long before he began making his way towards me at an incredible speed.

He was holding a blunt object in his hand.

Well...isn't he brave?

A small guy like him is going to going to charge at me with only a blunt object? Has he lost his damn mind?

I raised my Mace.

“Kuwahk!”

He swung his weapon straight down when he got close to me. I patiently waited for an opening. I swiftly moved to my left to dodge his attack and struck his left shoulder with my mace.

Puhhk!

I could feel his shoulder break through my mace. More like... I could hear it.

“Kuhahh!”

He let go of his weapon, but I could clearly see that he wasn't going to give up. After screaming his lungs out, he made a fist with his other hand and charged at me again.

But he was too slow. I could feel where he was going to attack. I leaned back to dodge his punches without much trouble.

While moving to evade his punches, I stuck my leg out in order to trip him.

Tuk!

The monster-like guy falls forward leaving the backside of his head open for business.

There was only one thing I could do then.

Hewkk!

PUhk!

“Kehhk....”

I heard his skull crack into bits and pieces and his last breath leaving his body.

Chapter 46: A New Way

I heard his skull crack into bits and pieces and his last breath leaving his body.

“He’s weak...no. I’ve just gotten stronger.”

I never was the type of person who liked to fight. How did I end up this way?

A combat skill? That was given in that white room. It’s just a part of me now, since it became part of my instincts. I just naturally know how to fight now.

Everything I think is weird is just my brain being strange. I’m too calm for all of this, and I’m adapting all too well...

Have I always been like this?

I have no idea. I just don’t know anymore.

While looking down at this creature I’ve just taken out, I came to a conclusion on what to call it. It’ll be called a hop goblin.

A hop goblin is something that’s widely used across games with a physique that’s much bigger than the typical goblin.

It’s actually too small... to be called an orc. I mean, orcs are

trademarked with all that muscle too.

So, I'll just call it the hop goblin.

While putting this new name on a dead creature's body, I checked to see if there was anything worth keeping.

They call guys like these...bums. He literally doesn't have anything on him. What gives...

Sigh.

Well, let's just go check out where they dragged the bear to.

If I'm lucky, I might even find their hideout. That'll be the jackpot.

Thud. Thud.

I began walking, following the tracks on the ground through the mountain. It was rather easy since there weren't any difficult paths along the way.

They appeared to be pretty mobile.

Tik! Tik!

“Eh”

Something flew and hit me. The protective gear I had on had blocked whatever it was, and just happened to make that noise before falling to the ground.

Tik! Tik! Tik! Tik!

It keeps flying at me. I looked straight trying to figure out what it was.

It was a fairly good sized, long needle.

The ends were pretty blunt while the tip was really sharp. Chunks of liquids at the end didn't make it seem any friendly either.

A poisonous needle?

“Tch. with needles...?”

I guarded with my face with both of hands as I looked to see where the needles came from. There was something smaller than that hob goblin sitting on a branch nearby.

He had a green colored skin on a slender figure. He looked like a skinny monkey, but with longer nose and shaper teeth.

His height couldn't be more than a meter. If it came down to a fight, I probably could just beat him to death.

I could see the long, tube-like tool he was holding in his hand to blow the poisonous darts at me. Unfortunately for him, the protective gear I'm wearing is made of reinforced plastic and kevlar weaved into it. That just won't work for him.

“Divine Attack.”

Four lights appear above my head. Four of them flew straight towards the monkey and began bashing his body.

Puk! Puk! Puk! Puk!

“Kiekk!”

He quickly fell to the ground from a height that was close to a 2 story building. He was now shaking in shock.

“Kuruka!”

“Kuruka!”

“Kiru Kuruka!”

Damn. They all reside on the tree branches. They look pretty

primitive seeing how not a single one of them have a bow and arrows.

“Divine Attack. Divine Attack. Divine Attack.”

I’m going to consecutively use this attack to take out everything that’s surrounding me. Strangely, and lucky for me, these lights must have some kind of homing function because it’s chasing down those who are dodging.

“Kiahk!”

“Kiehk!”

Three of them fell to the ground screaming. They were shaking uncontrollably while suffering from pain.

I made my way over to the one that was the closest, thinking they wouldn’t die so easily especially from falling from a tree like that.

“Ki....kieh..”

The monkey creature made some kind of noise and showed me its fangs. It made me realize how different they were from humans. Still willing to fight their enemy while being in great pain like that.

Alright, so you’re telling me that you’re a living, breathing, life form.. Is that it?

But what else can I do here? My job is to kill all of you.

Hweek.

Puhhk.

The mace I brought down on his head crushed his skull on contact. There was blood everywhere with bits and pieces of the skull as well.

I turned towards the others.

I should call them goblins as well since these guys appear to co-exist with the hob goblins.

“KiruKaku!”

Tak. Tak. Tak. Tak.

Eight goblins came down to surround me after something up in the trees made that sound. They were all holding wooden spears as they were screaming my way.

The stench that was coming off of them was unbearable. It was close to that of a rotten meat, which was piercing my nostrils.

The noises they were making weren't helping me stay focused either.

What in the world do they possibly want from me?

“Kaku!”

They came at me with their spears. It was fast and precise, but it wasn't strong enough to do any real damage to my gear. It just made few scratches here and there. This isn't something that a wooden spear can pierce through its surface.

As I made my way forward, I raised my mace up. Without having to use any of my Steel Body Technique... I struck down with it as hard as I could.

Puk!

It broke the shoulder of one of the spearheads. I had originally aimed for its head, but he was able to dodge it at the last minute by twisting his body around.

“Divine Bind.”

I used another Divine Skill. A string of light appeared and binded the shoulder of one of the monsters I had just attacked.

5% of my Divine power just depleted like that. Luckily, I could

feel it recover as fast as it depleted with the help of my ring and bracelet. Maybe, the mace too.

Hweek.

Puk!

The bind mercilessly secured him and made him fall to the ground for me to smash his head in. While I was aiming to strike his head, other spearheads were coming in for mine.

“Hmm.”

I turned my body to dodge their attacks. I ran forward and placed my back on a tree with them in my sight.

No matter how good I might be at dodging, I can't guarantee that back of my head will be completely safe.

They were coming at me. Charging as fast as they can with their little legs, and jumping towards me.

Hweek.

I spin my mace round and round to block every spear that comes my way. After, I grip my fast as hard as I can and aim for the guy in front of me.

Pukk.

The force of my blow makes him fall to the ground. He begins mumbling something in pain.

“Divine Attack.”

Shwahhk.

Puhhhk.

His face is destroyed when 4 divine spheres flew towards him and began pulverizes everything.

I'd say...this attack has equivalency of a hammered work.

Chapter 47: A New Way

this attack has equivalency of a hammered work.

Not to mention that it focuses its attack on where I want it to. It's really convenient.

The remainders slowly retreated with their fangs showing as I smiled towards them thinking about how awesome this skill was.

Do they plan on falling back to regroup? That... is something I cannot allow.

“Divine Attack! Divine Attack!”

Look ahead, I casted my skill back-to-back to get them before they were able to fully retreat. Unfortunately, some were able to get away after throwing their spears on the ground and making a run for it.

God damn it.

They're bound to come back in huge groups later on....

“What to do....”

I had no choice but to look on as the goblins ran for their lives. Disappointed, I turned to the two that were tied down.

Trying to not pass out from the stench coming from the blood and chunks of flesh stuck on the mace, I swing it down with full force.

Puk! Puk!

Their lives are no more.

“This is going to be difficult...” to survive that is...I’ll need to be more alert.

If my enemies can easily climb trees like that, trying to stay safe in tree houses won’t be too effective.....

Should I just start hunting them down before they come to me?

“Yeah, let’s do it.”

I began making my way forward after deciding on my hunting plans. I also now had an idea on how I needed to act in certain situations after experiencing what just happened.

Divine Bind, Divine Attack, and Basic Heal... they all consume about 5% of my Divine Power, and it roughly takes about a minute to recover that. It means that it’ll take about 20 minutes to recover everything if I happen to use 20 Divine skills.

This is can be considered long and short at the same time...

If I'm not careful, this could be the last of me. Should I at least feel safe that I have this gun with me? As of right now, my main skill that I can use to be on the offensive isn't the Divine Attack.

It's the Divine Bind.

I'll need to utilize this skill more. Tie them up and strike their heads. How simple can it be?

A noise came from afar as I was thinking about my plans.

"Kiku! Kiku!"

"Uruka!"

That was a sound of a goblin that I had just killed. As soon as the sound made its way towards me, I took few steps back.

Fighting in a complex forest like this will not be in my favor at all.

It'll be better for me to fight out in the open.

I made my way to the area where the bear had fallen. Placed my back on the tree trunk and took something out of my Holy Bag.

Want to know what I took out?

A Fragment Grenade. This is the remedy to taking out large groups of enemies all gathered in one spot. And so, just like that....my enemies were making their way over to where I was.

The hop-goblins had made their way through the tall grass. There were five who made it out first. I popped off the pin on the grenade and threw it behind them as there were countless following their lead to the front.

“Kuka!”

“Urusak!”

They didn't waste their time to check out what I had threw at them. But I didn't waste any of my time to see where it had exactly landed, because I was too busy getting down on the ground to brace myself for the explosion.

The Fragment Grenade had exploded while the hob goblins were communicating with one another.

Kwanng!

All the hob goblins near where the grenade had fell had all been transported to the underworld. Even if few of them survived, they

were in no condition to fight against me.

The smell of blood mixed in with sharp chemicals were in the air along with screams of those in pain and agony.

By the time I stood up, there were bodies and bits of pieces of flesh everywhere. Few were alive amongst the dead.

Wow, talk about good luck.

I could see roughly 10 hob goblins were on the ground, 6 were screaming their lungs off, and the rest 4 had died immediately.

Thud. Thud.

I slowly walked over to the survivors and ended their lives one by one.

Puk! Puk! Puk! Puk! Puk! Puk!

Even the ones that appeared to be dead were struck in the head once more to be sure they weren't standing up again. Who would've thought that a grenade could take out 10 of them at once.

I'm really lucky.

When I looked around, I saw all sorts of barbaric/savage looking

weapons.

“Keek! Krukuh!”

“Kirukuh! Kirukuh!”

I could hear something coming from the top of the tree. When I looked up, I could see that it was making its way through the branches. Getting away from the scene.

I should really check to see how many of them really are. Well, no. That’s not really important right now. Their numbers won’t matter once I set this whole place to blitz.

“Summon Holy Bag.”

Paht.

Holy Bag appeared on my hand. I pulled out a torch from it, and placed it next to a tree. And, just like that...the tree was in flames.

I moved the torch from tree to tree, setting them all on fire.

I couldn’t believe what I was seeing.

Swhahhh.

Rain began falling from the trees. Heavy rain drops were only falling on the trees that were on fire.

“What the hell is going on? What....”

Did they put up a patch to prevent this place from going up in flames? Fuck. Is this getting back at me for what I did previously? Talk about being cheap. Stupid fucking admin.

“This is bullshit...”

I’m expected to take them out one by one and survive. Just how long do I have to survive for?

I don’t even know anymore. I’ll just go around kill everything I see. I mean, that’s what I’m here for, aren’t I?

From what I’ve been through just now, I think I can take on 20 of them without much trouble.

I could probably take out even more using a weapon.

So, why don’t I give it a try?

Chapter 48: Stronger Than I Thought

Stronger than I thought.

Your strength is not determined by the others.

It is something that must be determined by you.

-could be true, or could be false.

“Divine Bind.” I could feel power escaping my body. It turns into a rope of light that quickly flies and binds the enemy. The Goblin exhales a foul stench and falls to the ground screaming from the pain of the bind.

I shove the ends of my iron mace into his pie hole to find some peace and quiet around these parts.

“This is too easy...”

Looking around, I could see countless corpses lying on the ground. There were 24 Hob Goblins dead on top of the 12 regular Goblins that I had killed.

Should I thank the power of the Bind for this? I mean, what could be easier than to break the skulls of the enemies that cannot move?

It could be easy to just shoot them down from a distance, but that's just throwing ammunition away. Thankfully, my Divine Power replenishes periodically.

It recharges itself without me doing anything. This really is better than taking candy from a baby.

“I wonder how many I've killed in a week?”

A week has flown by since getting dragged here.

Although I wasn't able to find the Goblins' hideouts, I ran into about 200 of them and took out nearly 150 in the process.

Their usual groups were in the sizes of a dozen or so, but sometimes there were more than 30.

During a fight, I was able to use DIvine Law for about 20 times. If the battles lasted longer than excited, I would squeeze in another one or two with the help of Divine Power replenishing.

Simply put, I'm able to use the DIvine Law 20 times in a single battle. As for the Bind, I realized that its effects lasted for roughly 10 minutes. They're free after that but it doesn't matter since they would all die before that happens.

Of course, I have to account for those that runaway. I don't know when it started happening, but they stopped attacking me and started running away when they see me.

They were now avoiding fights with me. What can you do? I've took out about 150 of them, and I use a skill that they've never seen before...

“This skill just has to be rigged. It's amazing.”

Bind them. Kill them.

Such a simple combo, but it's totally effective. Aside from me having to verbally cast the damn thing, it's not that bad at all because it only takes a second. Only downside is that it totals up to 20 seconds in battle.

But thanks to it, I can take on up to 40 Goblins all alone. If there were 50, I could just tie them all up and kill half before running away.

Bind is Bind, but this is all thanks to my toughened up body. It's not just my skills that developed with time, my body just absorbed fighting techniques and everything about it like a sponge. I'm now like a....barbarian that was born to fight.

Enough getting lost in train of thoughts. I began moving my feet again after staring at the dead corpses.

I took out a stick from my pocket to chew on while I advanced forward.

Hwaahk.

That's when it happened. I turned my head in the direction I heard something flying towards me. It was something completely unexpected.

“Damn it!”

I jumped to the side trying to dodge an object engulfed in crimson flame heading right towards me.

Kwang!

“Kuk!”

I couldn't breathe. It was as if someone had knocked the wind out of me over and over again. What can you expect when you throw your body to the ground to dodge something that was meant to kill you.

“Basic Wound Heal.”

Immediately, I used my healing skill before standing back up to run. There wasn't as much pain on my back anymore, but I could see another fire object coming fast.

Kwang Kwang!

This time, I was able to distance myself from the impact radius of the flame, but the impact of its explosion had pushed me forward.

Taanng.

I rolled on the ground before coming to a stop. Damn it!!! My protective gear is ruined!

“Basic Wound Heal.”

Pahht.

All my pain just disappeared in an instant. This skill here is so rigged.

By the way...

“It’s not as powerful as a grenade but...”

When I turned back, I could see a small hole in the ground and a tree that was busted up.

Its explosion is no joke. Even if I didn’t get hit directly, I still sustained some injuries. Thank god for the skills I purchased earlier. Saved my life few times over.

Steel Body, Physical Enhancements, and Basic Physics Properties

are also there as well. Am I like this due to all the buffers? I would've been long dead if I didn't have anything.

“Wooka! Wooka!

“Kiruku!”

I can hear them coming from all sides. Tch. It sounds like there are more of em this time around.

“Kuwahku!”

I'm surrounded. I've been surrounded. I couldn't tell how many there were with all the trees around me, but from what I could see there were over 50 in my sight ahead and around 30 in the trees above my head.

And that wasn't all.

One of the Hob Goblins was riding a wolf. It was the biggest wolf I've ever seen. Something out of a movie. How the hell can a wolf be big as a horse?

On that big wolf was a Hob Goblin that was bigger than any others. He looked at least 2 meters in height and was built like a gorilla.

That... has to be a boss.

The boss of this goblin horde.

Next to the boss goblin was an old, yet small goblin with a staff clutched in its hands.

It's him.

He was the one who's been throwing those fireballs at me.